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VOL II NO 1 MN 121

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

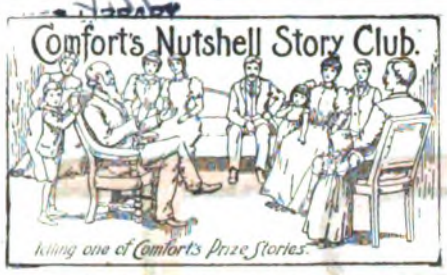
NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON.

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER.

Edmund Vance Cooke, First Prize.
Max Bennett Thrasher, Second Prize.
Addie V. H. Barr, Third Prize.
"Essie Gee," Fourth Prize.
"Blanche Heath," Fifth Prize.

A PERILOUS PROXY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY EDMUND VANCE COOKE.

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"BUT surely, Colonel Ashcroft, you don't believe those disagreeable things," asserted dainty Mrs. Pelton with a touch of dismay in her tone, as she addressed the returned traveller.

"Don't be so sure of that, Puss," laughed her husband. "I tell you he's a Yogi, an adept, a Thaumaturgist, a whatever-you-may-call-him, in short he's a b-a-a-d man and he has all the tricks of the imp of darkness up his sleeve."

The Colonel smiled lazily and not at all displeasedly. "You are both right," he said. "I don't believe in these wild forces, I simply practice them."

"Why, you horrid creature!" said the lady with a nervous little laugh, "you will make us glad that you are going away to-morrow."

"Oh, distance doesn't always interfere with my esoteric wickedness," retorted the Colonel mockingly. "If I can but fix my evil eye on an unsuspecting wretch," and here the Colonel glowered as balefully as possible at the husband, while watching with sinister delight the effect upon the wife, "he's mine, he's mine, he's mine!"

The Colonel growled out these words melodramatically and broke off into a laugh. Mrs. Pelton thought it a not wholly pleasant one.

"Capital!" cried Pelton. "I say, old man you couldn't get your furlough extended, could you? But of course you wouldn't want to, not with the chance of real service at hand after all your years of barracks rust. Use your black arts on the Spaniard. I expect to hear that General Miles has sent you as an army of one to batter down Morro Castle with an incantation, a few mesmeric passes and a blast from a ram's horn."

"Oh, of course I must go," said the Colonel. "Still, if I had your thousands and your ties," with a gallant little nod at Mrs. Pelton, "I'm not sure that I should take any chances of curtailing my enjoyment of them."

There was a covetous gleam in the mottled eyes and a sinister smirk to the iron-grey mustache which Mrs. Pelton did not like, and she hastily interjected, "Speaking of mesmeric passes, do you believe in them? Mr. Pelton and I went to see Rantanelli and Reynard and others, but we—well, it was all so silly, don't you know?"

"Cheap charlatans!" ejaculated the Colonel, contemptuously. "Men with some little power, certainly, but how crude their methods and how incomplete their control. They appear to wholly lack the power of *graduation*. The men I have seen could regulate their influence with almost as much accuracy as an electrician can regulate the amount of power which shall pass over the wires from his coils and batteries. More, they can turn their forces full upon a subject and then release all but a single driblet, so to speak, a single silken thread which binds the subject to them, no matter what time has elapsed or distance intervened. Both of you have known people who had some singularly recurring disease, as hay-fever, for instance, which returned every year on the same day, almost at the same hour. Such cases, in my opinion, are occasioned by personal influence. What other hypothesis is tenable? We can't imagine a disease to have a malevolent intelligence, which enables it to estimate time so accurately. If it is objected that a change of climate will often obviate the recurrence, I need only answer that many influences are restricted to certain *zones*, and if the subject chances to find the antithetical zone to that in which the influence has been working, then the power of the influence is lost. Several consecutive breakings of the spell wears it away and the sufferer often finds that he is "cured" and can again exist in his former zone. Now **if the so-called disease were merely a climatic influence upon a membrane, why would it be subject to such a cure?"**

"What you say is very interesting," objected Pelton, "but I myself have suffered from hay-fever and I'm very sure I was never under any occult influence, as you term it."

"That may be so," replied the Colonel, but one watching him closely might have noticed his manner change. A strange gleam came into his mottled eyes and a firm tense note into his low, deep voice as he continued. "I have known men, however, who could control your mind without any of the usual forewarnings, without touching your hand, without unduly attracting your attention and with hardly more than a glance in the eye."

The Colonel had never taken *his* eye from Pelton's and while he spoke he slipped his hand along towards the other's until, as it approached quite near, Pelton's hand shot into his with a sudden involuntary movement, much as a piece of quiescent iron suddenly claps into contact with an approaching magnet. The Colonel did not stop his low, droning speech a second.

"Without any contact of nerve centers." He laid his hand carelessly on Pelton's shoulder as if to merely emphasize his words, but while he spoke his fingers passed to the base of Pelton's skull. "Without any of the common chicanery." His voice was lower than ever. "Without even——" the last words seemed hurried and were lost in a whisper.

When the Colonel had begun to speak, Pelton sat with his customary smile upon his face, but as the speaker progressed his face appeared to become expressionless, yet without changing a muscle. The corpse of a smile was there. The spirit had fled. Now as the Colonel sank, with seeming laziness, back into his chair and slowly closed the eyes still directed towards Pelton, Pelton gave a hardly perceptible start and said confusedly: "I declare!—I beg pardon, but I've got a touch of headache. I—I didn't notice it till just now. What's that you were just saying about hay-fever, Ashcroft?"

"Why, Fred, *you* never have headaches!" cried Mrs. Pelton. "What do you suppose ails his head, Colonel Ashcroft?"

"You forget I haven't known Fred and his headaches for years," laughed the Colonel.

"Why of course. How absurd of me. I don't know why I asked *you*," replied the wife a little foolishly.

It was exactly a month later, though neither Mr. nor Mrs. Pelton noticed the circumstance, that this pair were seated in the cosy, cushioned library which was the delight of Mrs. Pelton's heart, but which was chiefly valued by her husband as a lounging and smoking room. On this evening, however, he was reading various of her favorite poems to her. He was well into Owen Meredith's famous "Aux Italians" and divided his attention between his cigar and the hero's words:

"And I swear, as I thought of her thus, in that hour
And of how, after all, old things were best,
I smelled the smell of that jasmine flower
She used to wear in her breast.

It smelt so faint and it smelt so sweet,
It made me creep, and it made me cold
Like the scent that steals——"

At first Mrs. Pelton thought he had stopped for a puff and a readjustment of his cigar, but when she looked up her husband sat with a perfectly fixed expression as if regarding some one or some thing intently.

"What is it, Fred?" asked his wife, a little startled.

For answer there came a torrent of words, oaths, and angry exclamations. He was not looking at her and his voice was gruff and unnatural.

The bewildered and terrified woman was overwhelmed and knew not what to do.

"Fred!" she cried, when a lull came, "Fred, for God's sake don't do that! Ah, you are trying to frighten me."

"And I say you are a liar and unfit to associate with gentlemen," came the coarse, strange words, which certainly were not a reply. Then an expression of pain shot across his face, another oath shot from his lips and he clutched his right arm with his left hand, his eyes staring hard ahead. Mrs. Pelton felt herself give way, a black wave overwhelmed her and she sank into a chair.

Whether it was seconds or hours that she was unconscious she did not know, but as her senses floated back to her, she heard her husband say:

"Confound it! this cigar's gone out. Where was I? Oh, yes—

'——from the winding sheet
When a mummy is half unrolled.'

Why, why—what the deuce!—what's the matter with my arm?"

Mrs. Pelton sprang to him as well as her still dazed condition would allow, but it was his face, not his arm, she first scanned eagerly.

"Thank God! thank God!" she breathed.

"Eh? For a broken or paralyzed arm?" asked her husband, half laughing, half groaning. "Deuce take it, I never had such a thing happen. I didn't feel a hint of it till I went to raise my hand just now."

Mr. Pelton was not the only one who was puzzled. His physician gave him no satisfaction. He talked learnedly and confusingly and assured his patient that the arm would be all right in a few days.

It did not better as fast as promised, but it gradually recovered its strength, whereat the good physician congratulated himself heartily and rendered a bill such as a wealthy patron could afford to pay.

Mrs. Pelton watched the arm with a concern which Pelton and the physician tried in vain to allay. When it was quite recovered she breathed more freely, but her husband frequently caught her studying his face with a half questioning, half alarmed expression which instantly changed as soon as detected.

She had not dared to question him about his singular conduct on the evening of the injury to his arm, especially as he seemed totally unconscious of it.

The alarm was gradually wearing away and Mrs. Pelton was becoming her old self again, from the fact that her husband so surely seemed to be his, when the trouble was all brought back again double fold. Mr. Pelton had gone out one evening to his club to attend a social billiard tournament, in which he was a contestant. He was very fond of the game of billiards and usually indulged it by inviting his friends to use his own table, but when it came to a club tournament, it was a temptation he was quite unable to resist. "This blessed arm stopped my practice for so long that I'll be handicapped," he had remarked to his wife, on leaving.

Mrs. Pelton knew the tournament would last until late, and about ten o'clock she began to make preparations to disrobe when she heard a carriage roll to the door.

Her fears instantly returned to her and she hastened to the door herself, in time to meet two gentleman bearing a third between them. The third was her husband. Before a word was spoken she realized that here was another mystery, but being prepared this time, she forced herself to calmness.

"Don't be alarmed, Mrs. Pelton," one of the bearers was saying, with an attempt at jocularity, "Fred hasn't had a drop—nor yet a fall. He seems to be merely in a prolonged faint. I took the liberty to send for Doctor Bexford to save time."

"I think that's the carriage coming now," said the other gentleman.

Meantime they were bearing him to the couch indicated by the troubled wife, who sank down beside him, pitifully searching his face and chafing his hands and making vain appeals to his unconsciousness.

At that moment in came Dr. Bexford, a portly and slow moving body who rubbed his hands and repeated each syllable with extreme leisure and distinctness.

"Ah, yes, the gen-tle-man is ill. What are the cir-cum-stan-ces? Um. I see. Yes. Exact-ly so. Um. An-y thing to in-duce asphyx-i-a? Um. Sub-ject to at-tacks of a sim-i-lar na-ture? Um. Yes, rath-er ex-cep-tion-al. No know-ledge of an or-gan-ic heart affec-tion? Um. What re-cent strain on his ner-vous sys-tem? Ah! wor-ry ov-er his arm to some ex-tent. Um. Any par-tic-u-lar circum-stance or ex-cite-ment at the club? Um. No, noth-ing to pre-vent a re-turn of conscious-ness, I should say. Pure-ly func-tion-al troub-le, prob-ab-ly."

To shorten the good doctor's method, somewhat, the patient presently began to gasp for breath and life came back to the staring countenance. The return of sensation seemed accompanied by pain and he groaned frequently.

He gained slowly and his first words after he was able to speak, were in a hoarse, gruff voice, strangely at variance with his almost feminine appearance. Moreover, they were not addressed to his wife, who was bending over him, but seemingly to the others. "God, fellows!" he gasped, "a close call! What a devilish taste in my mouth! What a lot of salt water inside of me! Well, you can't drown a man born to stop bullets."

The doctor, standing behind him, gravely tapped his forehead. "A lit-tle de-li-ri-um," he whispered to Mrs. Pelton. "Not un-nat-ur-al, no, not un-nat-ur-al."

But strangely enough, the patient continued to give evidence of a painful distention of the stomach, a bad taste in the mouth and a roaring sound or some foreign substance in his ears.

He seemed much exhausted and presently fell asleep. Pelton's friends and the doctor took the opportunity to withdraw, the latter leaving some simple directions. When they were outside, the doctor asked:

"Hum, A-kers-field, sup-pose you tell me with a degree more of de-fin-ite-ness just what hap-pened."

"Why, it was very sudden," answered Akersfield. "Wasn't it Robinson? Pelton was leaning over the table just about to make a shot. He started to say something about the play, when suddenly he sprawled across the table, with his legs and arms thrashing around like a windmill. At first I thought he was fooling, but when I saw his face all tangled up—by George! Robinson, did you ever see anything like his face?"

"Yes," answered Robinson. "When I was a little fellow, I saw another boy pretty nearly drown once and his face looked just like Pelton's."

"Is that so? Well, he struggled like that two or three minutes, doctor, making awful gasps, as if for breath, every once in a while. Then his senses seemed to leave him and after his body became composed, his face straightened out too. I called two carriages, sent one for you, and Robinson and I took him home in the other. That Mrs. Pelton is a game little thing, isn't she?"

The "game little thing" sat by her husband's bedside for hours, deeply troubled and perplexed. She had just scanned his features for the hundredth time, partly to see if he was still asleep, but more to assure herself that no further hallucination was visible in his countenance when he suddenly called out, "I think I'll make a draw shot of it," and sat up in bed, gazing at his wife.

"Why, where am I?" he asked after a moment. "What has happened to me? Was I dreaming? No, I came to the Club this evening. Puss, how came you here?"

"Hush, Fred, you've been sick. You're better now."

"Sick? I? No, it was nothing but a sprained arm. I was just thinking to-day that it was a whole month since I hurt it and it took nearly all that time to get well. How did I get here when I went to the Club? I tell you I had Akersfield beaten."

It was evident that he remembered nothing of what he had gone through and this fact sent an added thrill of terror through poor Mrs. Pelton. His remark about its being an even month since his arm was injured started thoughts in her which, as Poe has it, she "had never dared to dream before."

She pondered many days. She could not account for these mysterious lapses in her husband, neither could she confide her fears to any one. As a matter of fact, she didn't quite know what her fears were, but the memory of Ashcroft's remarks haunted her. She called them humbug a hundred times, but always returned to ponder them anew and to strive to recall everything that he had said and had looked and done. One day about three weeks later she had an inspiration. She was sitting with her husband at the time and could hardly repress an excited exclamation, "Fred," she said, with energy. "I want to go to Mackinac."

Her husband started. "When?" he asked.

"This week. To-morrow."

"I never knew you were so fond of Mackinac. Isn't it too early?"

"Never mind. We must go to Mackinac, or Nova Scotia, or the Maine coast, or somewhere. Promise me."

"But I can't very well leave and the weather here is delightful."

Mr. Pelton had a hundred objections but Mrs. Pelton had a hundred and one answers and in the end, Mr. Pelton succumbed, so another week saw them safely ensconced at the head of Lake Huron, the gentleman rather bored and the lady nervous and expectant.

Each day she followed her husband's footsteps more and more closely and as the season was young and there was very little to do, she did not find it difficult.

Each day she grew more nervous and one day toward the end of the month she seemed to reach the climax. Not an instant did she leave her husband from under her watchful eyes and she fretted if he even stirred. She dragged him off to bed comparatively early.

Whether it was this, or some more obscure cause, certain it is that toward the end Mr. Pelton seemed to grow restive. After they had reached their room, he expostulated. "Pshaw, Puss, I can't go to bed. To-night, nothing suits me but action. I want to *do* something. I—I wish I were in Ashcroft's place to-night, with a chance to make a name, to serve my country, to *be* somebody. Suppose," he cried gayly, "suppose half a dozen of us Yankees started up a dozen or two Spaniards around Santiago. There is a rush, a clashing of sabres and machetes, a peppering fire of rifles and carbines and—ah——"

With a sudden cry, he had flung up his hands, whirled around two or three times and fallen face downward on the floor.

Poor Mrs. Pelton's nerves gave way and cry-

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ing and screaming she fell upon the floor, clasping her husband's head in her arms. But she was not to be tried as severely as on the previous occasions.

Almost immediately her husband staggered to his feet seemingly recovered and clapped his hand to his head.

His wife who had struggled up also and clasped her arms around his neck noticed his lips move and these were his whispered words:

"*Without even being conscious that you will be in my place and in my power!*" After a little he added aloud: "Something has snapped inside of me, Puss, but I feel better." Another space and he uttered two more words, irrelevant words, but they made Mrs. Pelton turn pale. "Poor Ashcroft!" he said.

It was almost a week later that the hotel proprietor came to the Peltons who were sitting on the long veranda where they had been watching the morning boat come in.

"Mr. Pelton, you mentioned the other day that you knew Colonel Ashcroft," he said with some excitement.

"Yes."

"Well, read that."

"That" was a newspaper article:

"Key West, Fla. Special to The Sun. The dispatch boat Kanapaha brings interesting details of the death of Colonel Ashcroft, previously reported. The Colonel, it seems, was in the habit of sharing the dangers of his men and while a strict disciplinarian, he never gave an order which he would not himself have been ready to obey. This trait was brought out by a little incident which occurred at Tampa, exactly one month before his death. He was superintending the loading of a transport ship, when he gave an order to a man which involved some risk of falling overboard. As the man could not swim, he naturally hesitated, when the impetuous colonel gave him a push to enforce his order. The man fell into the sea and the colonel promptly sprang in after him. Both were nearly drowned before they were rescued. Curiously enough it was just a month before this accident that he was involved in an unlucky quarrel with a fellow officer at Chickamauga and was shot through the arm, though the wound healed with surprising quickness.

"When Colonel Ashcroft was cautioned on the day of his death, he replied laughingly, 'O this is my lucky day. Nothing can hurt me to-day. I have a substitute who suffers for me.'

"It was this feeling of recklessness which inspired his charge while reconnoitering the enemy's position on that evening with half a dozen men.

"Coming upon a like party of the Spaniards, though of much greater force, the little squad of Americans dashed boldly upon them and scattered them, though not without an exchange of sword-cuts and shots. One of the bullets entered the breast of the brave colonel and he fell from his horse dead. The army has lost a valuable officer and his mourning friends are legion."

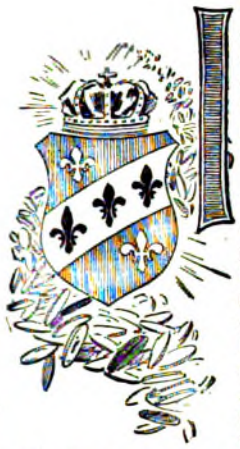
"Poor fellow!" sighed Pelton, when he had concluded the article. "And Puss, wasn't it a mighty odd thing that I should have spoken as I did the other night about being Ashcroft and charging the enemy with half a dozen men—you know the night I got that awful vertigo?"

"Very odd, indeed," said Mrs. Pelton and then she added to herself, "And what would it have been if we hadn't changed our zone?"

$1,000,000 RANSOM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX BENNETT THRASHER.

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IT would be hard to conceive of anything which could create so much excitement all over the world as did the kidnapping of the Duchess of Kimborough.

The death of Queen Victoria, or a declaration of a general European war, could hardly have received more space in the newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic, for the marriage of this beautiful, young American heiress to his Grace of Kimborough was still fresh in mind; while the glowing accounts which had been cabled home of the gowns and jewels of the young Duchess when she was presented at Court and when she had appeared at the famous costume ball which the Duchess of Devonshire gave to the Queen's Jubilee visitors, had only served to intensify the interest in her, and in her new home.

The Duchess had left Kimborough late in the afternoon of a day in November to join her husband in London. She was attended by her maid and a man servant. The latter, who was riding third class, reached the city safely, but the first class compartment reserved for her Grace and her maid was found empty.

The first clue to a possible explanation of the mystery was obtained when the telegraph brought the news that the station agent and guard at Pedford-Byington had been found gagged and bound, by the guards of a goods train which had been stopped there for want of the usual signals. Pedford-Byington was the only station at which the train had stopped on the little-travelled branch from Kimborough to the main line. The agent and guard could give no information beyond the fact that they had been separately set upon, overpowered, and locked up in the luggage room. That robbery of the station was not the object of the attack was evident from the fact that not even the money in the till had been disturbed. Evidently the persons concerned in the affair had disdained any but the biggest game.

It was subsequently learned that in the darkness of the early autumn evening, the station employees having been put out of the way and the attention of the train guard having been diverted by a confederate, six men had entered the first class compartment, and smothering the Duchess and her maid, each of whom was of slight build, in blankets, had removed them by the door opposite to the platform against which the station was built.

On the day but one following the kidnapping the tremendous sensation excited by this was equaled by another, and all the London and New York papers rushed out extras.

The greatest detectives of whom England can boast were employed upon the case and, so far, had found out absolutely nothing. The Duke of Kimborough had offered a reward of five thousand pounds for any information which would lead to the recovery of his young wife, and her father in New York, before chartering the fastest Atlantic liner at the docks of that city, in which to cross the ocean, had cabled that he would give twice as much more.

It was at this time that the second sensation was precipitated.

The Duke of Kimborough received a letter mailed at the general post-office, in London, in which he was informed that the Duchess was safely imprisoned out of his reach, and that she and her maid were being kept under the influence of drugs which for a certain length of time would be harmless, but that if by ten o'clock of the evening of the next day certain conditions were not complied with, the dose would be doubled, the captors of her Grace would safely make their escape, and the two women when found, if they ever were found, would be dead.

The conditions were that two hundred thousand pounds in money be delivered to two messengers who would be at a designated point on the Thames embankment, near the Houses of Parliament at six o'clock, evening, of the following day. It was stipulated that the money should be in kinds and denominations specified, so that it could not be easily identified afterwards. It was stated that these two men would be secretly watched to see if they were followed. If this was the case, or if they were detained in any way beyond the time mentioned, then these two men, whose task had been assigned to them by lot, understood that they were to be abandoned and the rest of the conspirators were to make their escape, first removing the two prisoners to some place unknown to the two messengers, so that rescue would be impossible. If the money was sent as demanded the two women would be left under such circumstances that when they returned to consciousness, which they would do if unmolested during the night, they would be able to quickly and easily summon help and make their hiding place known.

Inasmuch as the dowry which the American girl had brought to England when she had married the Duke of Kimborough was four millions of pounds the amount demanded was not unreasonably large.

The excitement over the kidnapping was as nothing compared to that which followed this development. It was announced a hundred times, and denied as many, that the Duke had arranged to pay over the money. Fortunately the exact place fixed upon for the rendezvous had been kept from the public, else the Thames embankment would have been black with curious men and women, and Westminster Bridge would have fallen beneath the load crowded upon it. The appointed place was variously said to be anywhere from Whitechapel to the Crystal Palace, and every person guessed a new location. It was said that a thousand police and twice as many soldiers were to be detailed to capture the two messengers.

To tell the truth it is doubtful if the Duke himself knew what to do. His marriage had not been purely one of convenience, and he was sincerely attached to his wife. His first thought was to save her at any cost. Moreover, the terms of his marriage settlement had been such that if his wife died without children practically her whole fortune reverted to her family.

On the other hand it would be almost impossible for him alone to raise the large sum of money demanded in so short a time, and his wife's father, to whom he might have looked for help, was already crossing the ocean, and entirely out of reach.

To complicate the case still more, certain sensational papers had taken up the case of the maid, and were clamoring that an effort be made to rescue her. The working people of London had responded to the appeal, and the police had already been called upon to disperse several assemblages of excited citizens.

Tottingham House, the town residence of the Kimborough family would have been besieged all day with people making suggestions, or offering advice, had it not been that it was guarded. About three o'clock this guard made way to allow two gentlemen who had just driven up to the house to enter. One of these was Lord Alfred Peveril, a younger brother of the Duke. The other was a stranger to Kimborough, but evidently, as soon as his name was pronounced, a well-known man, to whom even so exalted a personage as the head of one of England's oldest families listened with respect. The stranger was a tall man of imposing presence and with a face expressing great individuality.

The conference between this man, Lord Peveril, and the Duke, was earnest, and so long that before a decision was reached the city clock had struck for five. An hour before this the Chief of the Scotland Yard force, who was giving his personal attention to this case, had been sent for to join in the conference. At a quarter before six o'clock all four left the house and were driven to Westminster Bridge. There they were met by ten officers from Scotland Yard in citizen's dress whom the Chief had sent for, and who separately disposed themselves according to his direction so that they would not be conspicuous, and still would be close at hand. By his advice the Duke and Lord Peveril kept somewhat back. The Chief and the stranger each carried a well-filled hand bag.

Just as the hands on the illuminated face of Big Ben stood opposite each other, and the bell was struck for six, two men walked up to the spot where the Chief and his companion stood, and spoke certain words which the letter to the Duke had said would be employed as a means of identification. Before he replied the Chief shifted his satchel from one hand to the other. This had been the signal arranged for his men. Two minutes later both men had been overpowered and disarmed. Two close carriages were at hand. The stranger who had come with Lord Peveril had been closely watching both men through the whole struggle. He now said, pointing to one of the prisoners: "Put that one into that carriage and guard him. I will take this one in here with me."

The man first designated was hurried into one of the carriages, between two deputies, securely handcuffed. The other was put into the remaining carriage, with the man who had given this strange order, the door was closed, and the two men were left alone together. The light from the electrics on the Bridge shining in through the windows made the interior of the

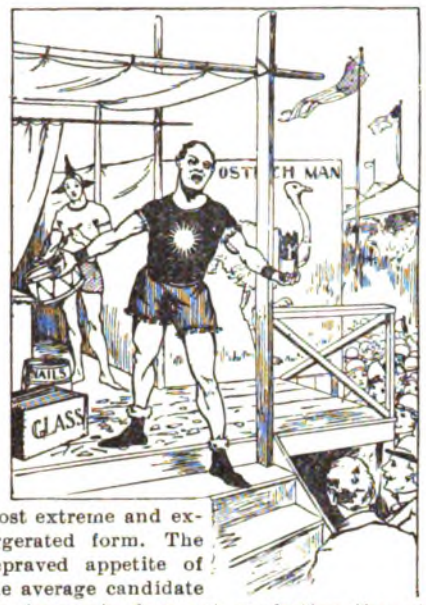
THE HUMAN OSTRICH.

"TELL ME WHAT YOU EAT AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU ARE."

The human ostrich. You've seen him probably, in the booth at the fair or circus or on the platform of the dime museum. He has toughened his stomach to the consistency of leather, and lunches on broken bottles, tacks, or ten-penny nails with seeming impunity. He doesn't live long, of course, for he sacrifices life to earn a lazy livelihood.

You would be amazed, perhaps, to be told that you were something like the human ostrich, in the character of your diet, and the risk of life involved.

It is not necessary that you eat glass and nails in order to resemble this monstrosity. The man who plays the part of the human ostrich is an example of depraved appetite in its



most extreme and exaggerated form. The depraved appetite of the average candidate for dyspepsia does not go farther than hot bread and biscuit, rich pastries, highly seasoned dishes, and excessively greasy foods. Add to this improper cooking, haste in eating, and lack of proper rest after a meal, and you have a condition very likely to result in disease and suffering.

Let it be remembered that the sole object of food is nutrition; nutrition not for the body as a whole only, but nutrition for the varying needs of the separate parts of the body; for the muscles, the nerves, the brain, the blood. When the stomach is in a state of healthy activity, Nature, by her remarkable processes, takes the food you supply, and distributes its starches and sugars, its salts and phosphates according to the needs of the separate organs of the body. When the stomach is not in a state of healthy activity, Nature does her best, but the various dependent organs of the body are put on short rations. There is not nourishment enough to supply them properly.

WHAT HAPPENS THEN?

A weakened stomach. A stomach incapable of performing its functions fully. The liver and blood-making glands work imperfectly. The natural result is that the food is imperfectly digested and only partly assimilated and the channels of life are choked and stopped by waste and putrescent matter. Some people know where the trouble is. They locate it in the stomach, because they have pain there after eating, an irregular craving for food, or an appetite that eating does not satisfy. There is heaviness after a meal, a feeling of undue fullness. It is hard to breathe, there is such a stuffy feeling about the chest. There may be palpitation or irregular action of the heart and the sufferer imagines he has heart disease. Perhaps the stomach sours, and there are bitter risings and belchings. These symptoms mark various forms and stages of "*weak stomach.*" They will not all be present in every case or in the earlier stages of the disease. Any one of these symptoms locates the trouble in the stomach and the digestive and nutritive functions, which are disturbed.

Quite often there is no apparent connection between the stomach and the symptoms of the disease. The victim thinks it "liver trouble," heart failure, or lung disease. There is a dull pain, perhaps in the back or the side. The spine aches, sometimes "in spots" and sometimes through its whole length. There may be a sharp stitch or pain occasionally. Exercise makes the limbs tremble and the heart beat violently. Perhaps to some of these symptoms there is added an obstinate, stubborn cough.

WHAT IS THE MATTER NOW?

It is another case of *weak stomach*. But, that is not where the pain is. Very likely not. But that is where the trouble is. The stomach has not been able to properly feed the organs dependent upon it. They are starving, they are weak, and they show their weakness in the aches and pains that afflict the various parts of the body. What will set the stomach right? There is one remedy practically infallible in its results and that one remedy is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It cures because it is made to cure just the conditions of the stomach which give rise to disease.

By way of proof take the case of Rev. C. L. Mundell, of Pinegrove, Gallia Co., Ohio. He writes: "I suffered from a dreadful feeling and weakness, and in 1893 I lost my health altogether. I went to one of the best doctors in the State and he said I had heart, stomach, liver and kidney trouble. His treatment did me no good. I tried different kinds of patent medicines but got worse all the time; was so weak that I could not walk any distance. If I walked up hill or a little fast it seemed as though my heart would jump out. I had almost given up all hope, and my money was all gone. Was scarcely able to make a living. Finally I saw an advertisement in one of the country papers that for twenty-one one-cent stamps Dr. Pierce would send one of his 'Common Sense Medical Advisers.' So I sent and got one and began to read concerning diseases like my own. After consulting the doctor himself, I purchased at my nearest drug store a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and a bottle of his 'Pleasant Pellets.' This was in 1897 and now I am happy to say that I am in the enjoyment of good health which I attribute to Dr. R. V. Pierce. I am so glad of my health that I cannot say too much. I first return my sincere thanks to Almighty God and then to Doctor Pierce."

The above is only a specimen case taken at random from thousands.

WILL NOT INEBRIATE.

"Golden Medical Discovery" contains no alcohol, or whisky, no opium or narcotics, neither sugar nor syrup which so often disagree with the weak dyspeptic stomach. Without any of these things it preserves its medicinal qualities perfectly and in any climate. It does not create a craving for injurious stimulants or narcotics.

DON'T BE DECEIVED.

If you are convinced that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is what you need, do not allow any designing dealer to palm off a substitute on you under the specious plea that it is "just as good." If *he* has no respect for your judgment show him that *you* have.

There are people everywhere who are in ill-health. Medicine has not helped them. They are out of heart and discouraged. Dr. Pierce invites such to write to him, freely and fully. After careful consideration of the case a reply is quickly made containing such instructions and fatherly advice as will prove of the greatest benefit. There is no charge for this consultation by letter.

A GREAT OFFER.

"The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser," Dr. Pierce's great work on the treatment and cure of disease is a book for patients, a book for the household. It is packed with information from cover to cover. This great book contains 1008 pages and over 700 illustrations, is sent *absolutely free*, on receipt of stamps to cover the expense of mailing *only*. Send 21 cents in one-cent stamps for the edition bound in paper, or 31 stamps for the handsome, cloth-bound edition. Address,

Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

carriage light enough so that each man could see the other's face distinctly. The whole capture had been so quickly and quietly effected that it had attracted no attention except from two men, one of whom had been carelessly leaning over the parapet of Westminster Bridge, at some little distance, apparently looking at the water of the Thames beneath him, while the other, not far away, had stopped to light a cigar. A moment later each man had melted into the crowd of the street and sidewalk.

The group of men around the two carriages stood absolutely silent as if waiting for something. The Duke and his brother drew near and joined them. Five minutes passed; eight, ten, before the door of the second carriage opened, and the prisoner stepped out. He did not pay any attention to the men about him, and warned by a gesture from the stranger, who followed close behind him, no one stirred until the prisoner set off at a brisk walk down the embankment, his tall companion keeping close at his side. The others, except for a guard left for the first carriage, followed.

Down the broad walk the party went, past Cleopatra's Needle, past the great pile of buildings known as "Balfour's Bubble," on, steadily on, the prisoner leading the way, but speaking no word, nor giving any look of explanation to his companions.

Of all the chapters of surprises to which this remarkable case gave rise perhaps none was greater than the one which the members of this party received when their guide turned in at the door of the famous and elegant Hotel Metropole. Evidently the hall porter knew him for he swung the door open without hesitation. When he would have looked askance at the rest of the party a signal from the Chief satisfied him. Their guide, still silent, led the way to the left, stopped at the fourth floor, went down a passage, unlocked the door leading into a suite of rooms, unlocked the doors into two inner rooms, and pointed to the Duchess lying upon a bed there.

The men sprang forward. The young woman was still alive, as was also the maid, who was found in an adjoining room. Both had been deeply drugged, but prompt action saved their lives. During all this time the man who had guided the rescuing party to the Hotel stood in the room as if uninterested in what was going on. When Dr. Andresol, for the stranger was no other than the famous French physician who has been so successful in the practice of hypnotism, was satisfied that the two women were out of danger he turned to this man once more, had him handcuffed, and then, clapping his hands before his face removed the hypnotic spell which had bound him. The surprise of the would-be captor when he found himself the captured can be imagined. He and his companion are now doing time. No one else implicated in the kidnapping was ever captured. Although the distance f.m the Westminster Bridge to the Hotel Metropole is not long, their warning had come in season. Both men were game. Neither ever gave away the story of the plot, and it could only be guessed at from the little the Duchess remembered and the people at the Metropole could tell.

The suite of rooms at that house had been taken a week before the abduction occurred. They were represented to be for a man who had brought his invalid daughter to London for treatment but who did not wish to have her go to a hospital. Each day closely veiled and wrapped she had been carried by his servants out of the hotel, ostensibly to the surgeon's, and later brought back again. When, therefore the unconscious Duchess had been substituted for this dummy, one day, the affair had become so much a matter of course that no one thought of associating it with the mysterious disappearance of her Grace of Kimborough.

Dr. Andresol had happened to be in London. The experiment had suggested itself to him as an interesting one to try. He had felt confident of his success, and had offered his assistance. The Duke had agreed to it because he did not know of anything better to do. The two rewards which had been offered were duly paid, and the doctor used them to endow the now famous hospital in Paris where hypnotism is so successfully employed in surgical cases. The Duchess of Kimborough, when she was quite recovered and returned to society, was more popular and more talked about than ever.

BETH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ADDIE V. H. BARR.

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R. Max Gavotte was preoccupied as he sat at breakfast; his mother knew it on account of the partial forgetfulness of his table manners, as she had ever boasted, to herself anyway, that no mother in that old-fashioned Southern town had a more courteous son than she.

Her *protegee*, Beth McDowell, knew it, for twice had he addressed her as "Elizabeth" during the meal, and Dr. Max always did that when in a serious mood.

He aroused himself sufficiently to hear his mother say, "Max, Thanksgiving will be Beth's eighteenth birthday, and I wish her to entertain a few of her friends Thanksgiving evening. It will be four weeks from to-day."

"Certainly, mother, I shall approve of whatever you do, but please pardon my seeming lack of interest this morning, but I must confess I am considerably disturbed. 'Old black mammy' is bed ridden with rheumatism and little Joe is, I fear, taking diphtheria and there isn't a darkey in this whole town who will nurse him. Since that scourge of diphtheria five years ago the word itself strikes terror to every one of them."

The color had slowly stolen from Beth's cheeks. Little Joe was "old black mammy's" grandson, and the two lived alone in a comfortable little house on the outskirts of the town. Their home had been provided by Max himself for he felt in duty bound to care for his "old black mammy."

Little Joe was Max's body guard whenever he had opportunity and he thought that dainty Beth McDowell must be related to the angels, she was so sweet and gracious.

Beth had quite an affection for the shiney, black-faced little fellow, and to think of his being so ill with no one to care for him made Beth's heart ache. Dr. Max noticed her white face, and he smilingly said:

"Mother, don't let Beth think too much of young Dr. Allen, she can never make a doctor's wife. If he came home saying that he had a case of small-pox, he would most certainly have a case of nervous prostration at home."

"You are unkind, Max," said Mrs. Gavotte, seeing the tears spring to Beth's eyes. "Beth has never been tested, yet such natures as hers shrink from seeing even a dumb brute suffer."

"Never mind, Beth, it's no crime not to be a heroine," said Dr. Max, arising from the table and making preparations for his morning calls. Just as Dr. Max was lifting the gate latch he heard light feet behind him, and Beth laid her hand on his arm.

"Max, will Joe die if he is not cared for?"

"I am afraid he will, Beth. Why do you ask, little girl?"

But Beth had flitted back up the gravel walk as fast as she had come. Dr. Max stood still and looked after the slight figure. It was difficult to realize that this little girl whom his mother had taken to her heart eight years ago, was now a young woman.

"How I wish she was *more* of a woman and *less* of child," thought Dr. Max as he drove down the street.

Dr. Max Gavotte was thirty-five years of age, and had been a practicing physician for four years. He had spent several years in Germany, studying his profession, and upon his return home, he delighted his mother's fond heart by remaining in his native town instead of going to some great city.

His practice comprised two large towns situated near each other, with some country practice intervening. It seemed that he was wedded to his profession, but if his name was ever coupled with that of another, Beth had a strange sensation as if something was tugging at her heart, an unexplainable, indefinable something.

Dr. Max knew to whom to go if he wanted a *boutonnier* made or initials worked in his handkerchiefs, or who could rest his tired head by reading so smoothly or singing quaint little songs in a sweet, fresh voice, yet Dr. Max had more or less conceit and his ideas concerning what sort of a wife he wanted were well formulated and it was his opinion that he would never marry unless he found such a one.

Above all other virtues she must be heroic.

Poor little Joe certainly thought Beth of the family of angels, and people of intelligence likened her to a fairy, and fairy-like she was in every movement. If she bought any article of wearing apparel, her deft fingers added something to make it prettier. Her mind had not been neglected; she read good books, and thought good earnest thoughts, but with it all she could not help being "dainty Beth."

A few moments after her son's departure Mrs. Gavotte felt a pair of arms steal around her neck and heard a tearful voice say:

"Auntie, does Max really think I am such a coward? But, Auntie, I have never had any great opportunity of showing you and Max how grateful I am. I almost wish Max would have some dreadful disease so that I could nurse him."

"No need of such heroic measures," Mrs. Gavotte laughingly said, "dearie, we both know of your gratitude."

The following morning was cold and gloomy and Dr. Max was gloomier than the morning previous. No nurse could be found for Joe. Dr. Max had spent three hours with him the night before, for the boy really had diphtheria in a malignant form.

"It is an outrage!" Dr. Max exclaimed, "for such a thing to happen in a civilized community."

Dr. Max was scarcely at the home of his first patient that morning when Beth appeared before Mrs. Gavotte with her long, gray coat and little blue hat on, and a basket on her arm. Mrs. Gavotte looked at her inquiringly.

"I am going to nurse Joe," Beth simply said.

"No, no, Beth, my child!" Mrs. Gavotte exclaimed. "What will Max say?"

"He, at least, cannot say I am a coward," answered Beth, quietly, "but, Auntie, that does not prompt me; I wish to relieve Joe if I can. Please do not oppose me."

"But, Beth," said Mrs. Gavotte, "when Max finds you there, he will insist on your returning."

"No, I do not believe he will," said Beth. "And, Auntie dear, don't worry," said she, kissing Mrs. Gavotte, and then hurrying toward "old black mammy's."

When Dr. Max called at the cottage at ten o'clock that morning he found a cheerful fire in the large fireplace and Joe's trundle bed near the fire; and he smelled oyster soup cooking in the next room, the kitchen.

Joe's face lighted up when he saw Dr. Max, and he said, "Oh, Marse Max, how good you is to me; jest to think what you's done for me——"

"Yes, Marse Max, honey, how could yer let her come?" chimed in "old black mammy" from the bed in the corner.

"Let who come?" asked Dr. Max.

"W'y, Missie, thar she is now bringin' watah from de pump wid dem little han's o' her'n——"

Dr. Max's brown eyes opened in astonishment, for Beth was just entering the back door with her fair hair blowing about her face and her blue eyes shining with something—Dr. Max knew not what.

"I came to stay with Joe,—and," said she reluctantly, "to relieve your mind, Max."

To Dr. Max it seemed as if a revolution had taken place. Where was the supposed Beth of yesterday?

"Beth, you may stay if it is your wish," said Dr. Max, when they were alone in the kitchen, "but I shudder to think of your doing so. Now I must go home and console mother as best I can."

For four days Beth followed Dr. Max's instructions to the letter, but the disease marched on, and little Joe grew steadily worse.

Once after taking his nourishment, Joe raised himself on his elbow and said hoarsely, "Missie, how long is it 'fore Thanksgivin'?"

"A little more than three weeks, Joe."

"Missis wuz a goin' to give me an' mammy a big turkey, wuzn't she?"

"Yes, Joe."

"An mammy wuz agoin' to cook me a possum wid sweet 'taters, but that wuz 'fore I thought I wuz goin' visitin'."

WATCHES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

This is a Genuine Watch (not a clock), Stem-Winding, Stem-Setting.



This cut is about Half actual Size.

Boys' Watch, Chain and Charm for selling 20 packages and Girls' Watch and Chatelaine Pin for selling 40 packages SAWYER'S BEST BLUE CRYSTALS among your friends and neighbors. Each package makes a quart of best **Liquid Blue.** Price 10 cts. each. Send your name and address to us and we will send the Blue, express paid. When sold send us the money and we will send the Watch free by mail, or will allow liberal cash commission. Send for Premium List. Agents Wanted.

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A GENUINE WATCH, (NOT A CLOCK) STEM WINDING, STEM SETTING.



This cut is about Half actual Size.

Beth supposed he was becoming delirious and asked, "Where are you going, Joe?"

"Joe's goin' to spend Thanksgivin' in heben, Missie, an' don't you s'pose I can tell Jesus how good you's bin to me an' mammy?"

That was the last time he was able to speak aloud. The next morning found his voice gone, and he was sinking into a semi-conscious condition.

"I cannot possibly be here before midnight," said Dr. Max, as he was leaving Beth that morning, "but I shall be here at all events before the end. This strain will be over within a few more hours, Beth. You have done nobly, bravely, and I am proud of you," and he looked down into her sweet blue eyes, which fell at his glance.

She said, "I know I can endure the strain, Max, only my head aches a tiny bit," and she might have added, "my throat is sore," but she did not wish to alarm Dr Max.

"Old black mammy" was able to leave her bed and sit beside Joe, but she did nothing but rock back and forth and moan most dismally. Joe's breath was becoming more labored and his face took on an ashy hue that was terrible to Beth.

All day Beth had fought a feeling of languor, which she attributed to loss of sleep. As night came on a cold rain set in, the wind moaned through the trees and around the corners of the house.

Beth hardly knew which was the more dismal, the moaning of the wind or the moaning of "old mammy." Beth watched Joe closely, yet it was difficult for her to believe that the silent messenger was an inmate of the lowly cottage. "Old mammy" realized it, and flung herself upon the floor and began that doleful wail of the colored race.

Joe was dying—where was Max? Beth listened and heard nothing outside but the pitiless rain. Dr. Max drove up to the cottage at two in the morning. He had been delayed much against his will. He never forgot the scene in that humble room. Joe lay still and lifeless upon the little trundle bed with the firelight full upon his dead face, causing him to look as if he slept.

Beth sat in a low chair with her eyes fastened upon Joe's face, as if she expected him to stir or whisper the word "Missie."

"Old black mammy's" head lay in Beth's lap, and she seemed unconscious of mammy's constant wailing.

"Beth, I am very sorry," said Dr. Max. "Poor little girl! What a night!" and he took her hands in his. "What!" he exclaimed, "Feverish! Throat sore?"

"Yes," said Beth. "May I go home, Max? I am so tired. Joe will spend Thanksgiving in heaven. I did what I could, Max."

"Yes, Beth, yes," and with tears in his eyes and a lump in his throat, Dr. Max wrapped her up tenderly and carried her to the buggy, bidding "old mammy" to get in too. Then locking the house up securely he left all that remained of little Joe alone for the time being.

Beth's life hung in the balance. The terrible disease had stricken her down. Dr. Max knew what anguish of soul was, during those days and nights, and he also knew that if Beth's bright life went out, it would leave a dense shadow over his pathway. He now knew his own mind and heart. But the disease was stayed.

Thanksgiving morning Beth was to be carried down stairs by Dr. Max. It had been three weeks since little Joe was buried. There was to be no Thanksgiving party. Dr. Max would permit Beth to spend her eighteenth birthday down stairs, but she was too weak to see any one.

That morning at breakfast Mrs. Gavotte had said, "Max, we have so much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving, and, bye the bye, you have not told me what *your* birthday present to Beth is to be."

Dr. Max smiled a queer little smile and said, "Mother dear, await developments," and Mrs. Gavotte, with a woman's intuitive power, felt that her cherished dream was about to be realized.

Beth sat in a large chair in the library. Max had said his present which would show his gratitude was there.

From his pocket he drew forth a small velvet-lined case in which was a beautiful diamond ring. Handing it to Beth he requested her to look inside. "Max to Beth" was what she read.

Taking it again in his hand he said, with much emotion, as he looked down upon her pale sweet face.

"Beth, this ring represents me. If you accept it, you accept Max."

"Oh, Max! I am not worth——"

"Hush," said Dr. Max, placing the glittering circlet on her finger, with his great love shining in his eyes, "hush, Elizabeth—my darling, it is I who am unworthy."

CATARRH CAN BE CURED.

Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; and yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption, and nervous diseases, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. NOYES, 920 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

To protect window plants from cold in the severe nights of winter cover each plant with a cone of stiff paper made long enough to cover pot and all.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for **FREE $2.00** trial bottle and treatise. **DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 E Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.**

A COLLEGE PRANK.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY "ESSIE GEE."

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GREAT Scott, boys! Something must be done. I'll be hanged if those little sneaking Freshies are to be allowed to carry all before them this way. A class supper! Not much they don't! Sure's my name's Mason this thing is to be broken up."

"But the Prex has given his consent. I don't see what we are going to do."

"Well, I guess you'll find out what we are going to do, Davis. Suppose we are going to sit by like blinking owls and let those sniveling little idiots walk over us? They would be so overtopping and conceited next year that there would be no living with 'em. No, the thing has got to be stopped right here, and we Sophs are the ones to do it. See?"

"Well, no, I don't see. If old Prex has put his finger in the Freshies' pie any fellow who undertakes to meddle will be pretty sure to get his walking ticket the next morning, and I don't care to accept mine just now."

"Walking ticket be hanged! I'm not going to meddle with the supper. I'm only to prevent there *being* any feast for the kids. If there's no class president, no recorder, no historian on hand what would be the use of a supper? It would be Hamlet with the ghost left out, base-ball without a pitcher, a band without a drum-major. See?"

"Yes, I see; but how in thunder you are going to prevent those fellows from being there beats me."

"Well, you won't know anything about the 'how', sonny, unless you'll promise to be mum, and help on the process, besides. I'll tell you one thing, though; it won't bring you any walking ticket from old Andrews."

"Sure? Well, that's all I'm afraid of, so fire

CURE DRUNKARDS

ELOQUENT WORDS FROM A WIFE WHO RESCUED HER HUSBAND FROM A TERRIBLE HABIT.

Secretly Gave Him a Remedy in His Coffee and He Now Rejoices With Her.

Who can doubt that there is a cure for drunkenness when we have such an eloquent and emphatic statement from Mrs. Katie Lynch, 329 Ellis St., San Francisco, Cal., she says:—"My husband was a hard drinker. There was never a doubt in my



MRS. KATIE LYNCH.

mind but what liquor had so worked upon his nerves as to actually control his appetite. Like most men who drink he was kind and generous when sober but the rum demon usually had the better of him and his wife had to suffer. One day I concluded to try a remedy called Golden Specific, which it was said would cure the liquor habit secretly. So I mixed some of it with Mr. Lynch's food for a few days and put a little in his coffee. I could scarcely conceal my agitation and fear less he should suspicion me for he had suddenly taken a dislike to liquor, said he despised the stuff, and was the most remarkably changed man you ever saw. I kept bravely at it determined to not waver in my attempt to cure him and I soon found out that my mission was a complete success and that Golden Specific had wrought almost a miracle for me. I want other women to profit by my example and am glad to learn that Dr. Haines who discovered Golden Specific will generously send a free trial package to every woman who writes for it.

Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 551 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, O., and if you wish you are at liberty to refer to me as having told you about this marvelous remedy.

away, and let's hear this precious scheme of yours."

"Well, I'll tell you, but we must have some more of the boys to help, so let's get them all together, and I'll explain it to you all at once. We must work quick, too. Lots to do, and only twenty-four hours to do it all in. Come on!" and the young men left their room in dormitory A., and were soon crossing the campus of Brown College in search of kindred spirits among the Sophomores.

The next night—a dark, drizzling, moonless night—three close carriages, each with a driver, were standing at the entrance of the college grounds. One pressed upon the pavement at Brown street, another stood among the trees at the top of the hill on George street, while a third hovered near the entrance to the Athletic Field. As soon as the carriages were satisfactorily placed a low whistle announced the fact, and the doors of the Sophomores' rooms opened silently and a crowd of masked and disguised figures poured into the corridors and assailed the doors of the president, the secretary and the historian of the Freshman class. No use to fight. No use to protest. Six or eight masked men stood grimly and silently over each of the prisoners and forced them to dress. An attempt on the part of the president to raise a yell for help was promptly suppressed by a gag, and soon all three, blindfolded, gagged, and with hands tied behind them were put into the waiting carriages and driven off—with three of their captors in every carriage—each by a different route, to Fox's Head. Here a tug, hired for the purpose, was in readiness, with steam up, and the kidnapped boys and their keepers were helped on board. As soon as they were well away from land and steaming down the Providence river the prisoners were given use of their hands, and, upon their promise to make no outcry, their gags, too, were removed.

"Now," said Gatewell, the president, as soon as he could command his voice, "will you be kind enough to tell me what all this means? That it is outrageous Sophomore tomfoolery I do not need to be told; but what, in the name of all that's senseless, are you doing, and why are you doing it?"

"It means, most wise and reverend president, that we, as Sophs have serious objections to the pow wow planned by you Freshies for to-morrow night, and that we are determined to prevent it at all hazards."

"That may be. I can well believe you would stop it if you could, but—I don't quite see how you are going to do so."

"Well, as we are out of reach of Providence, there's no harm in your knowing; so here goes. You'll grant, I suppose, that there would be no fun in a class supper if you three fellows were not there."

"Yes."

"Yes, well we propose to steam down outside of Block Island a bit, and lie there until to-morrow evening—getting a snatch of rest and recreation, a sniff of salt air, as it were, and perhaps a little fishing. Then to-morrow evening we will steam for home, arriving at college in time for prayers on Thursday morning. See? We felt as if you were applying yourselves too closely to your work, and we have a fatherly interest in the health of you little kids."

"To the devil with you and your care!" exclaimed Gatewell, "I'd like to pitch every one of you overboard."

"No doubt, no doubt," replied Mason, calmly; "but little boys mustn't give way to their angry passions. It might result in gags and manacles again," and Mason pointed to the heap of gags, handkerchiefs and ropes which had just been taken off the prisoners.

Gatewell clenched his fists and his black eyes sparkled with rage, but he was too wise to run any risk of losing what freedom he still possessed, so he restrained himself, and presently asked, quietly:

"Got your fish lines and grub on board?"

"Mostly. Got to stop at Newport for bait, though, and for bread. Forgot 'em at Providence."

Gatewell said no more, and sat gloomily watching boat and shore as they steamed on. When they were within a quarter of a mile of the wharf in Newport the Sophs rose and Davis remarked:

"Guess you fellows may as well go below for a while until we are clear of this place. It may save trouble all round. Besides, we've got to take off our masks here."

Quick as a flash Gatewell tore off his coat, vest and shoes and was overboard before the other boys had any idea of his intentions. Heading for the lights of the city he swam steadily on with the long, clean strokes of a trained athlete. The tug lowered a small boat, and Mason and two other men started to follow and recover the swimmer, when all were startled by a shrill whistle, and, turning, saw a small steamer in full pursuit of them. The next moment a search light thrown on them from the deck of the steamer nearly blinded them.

"Halt, or we'll blow you up," shouted the captain of their pursuer.

"What's wanted?" they called back.

"You are *all* wanted, and mighty quick, too! Get on board there, you men in the dory, or I'll put a shot through you. Quick! Do you hear?" roared the steamer captain.

The boys, thinking that the college authorities were upon them, obeyed silently, leaving Gatewell to swim on unmolested to the city.

"Now," said their captor, steaming alongside, "every man Jack of you come aboard of my craft and go down into the cabin," and on board they filed and down the ladder into the close little cabin, while the captain took possession of the tug, sending a couple of men aboard to search her for possible stowaways, while another pair of men started in pursuit of the fleeing Gatewell. They caught him just as he was climbing up on the wharf, and speedily had him back in their boat where one of them held him, too exhausted to offer any resistance, while the other man rowed back to the steamer. As soon as they were safely on board with the tug in tow, they headed with all speed for Fort Dumpling, which they reached just as the May morning was breaking in the east.

The watch responded to the steamer's hail, and in a few moments a boat put off from the fort to learn the errand of the early morning visitors. The boys, in their close confinement below, were ignorant of all that was going on, and were utterly astounded, half an hour later, to be led on deck and taken possession of by a squad of soldiers. No answer was vouchsafed to their questions until all were safely inside the fort. Then they were informed that their strange actions had attracted the attention of the police in Providence, who suspected them of being Spanish spies, and had therefore caused them to be followed and arrested.

Explanations followed. Telegrams passed in rapid succession between the fort and the college. The President himself came down and identified the twelve boys as his students, and at last they were free to return to Providence. At the college the President treated the Sophomores very leniently, rightly judging that they had been well punished already, and that the sneers and gibes of the seniors and juniors would be a bitter pill for them to swallow for the remainder of the college year, and that it would be a worse punishment than any which he could inflict. He stipulated, however, that all the expenses of the chase, of the telegrams, of new clothes and a new watch for Gatewell, whose clothes and watch were ruined during the night, and all other expenses of the affair, should be paid by the offending Sophomores.

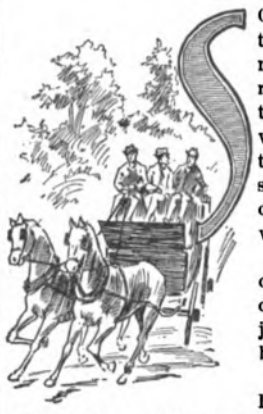
The captain of the tug, it is needless to say, had to settle with the civil authorities of Providence for his part in the affair and the drivers of the carriages also came in for their share of blame.

And the supper? Oh, yes, that came off a week later with great success.

JOE GRANGER'S VOICE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BLANCHE HEATH.

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OME years ago, while traveling in the remote backwoods, I arrived at the little town of Wintacook, where I expected to take the connecting stage. But, though overdue, it was nowhere in sight.

"Stage is late today?" I suggested to one of the natives enjoying his pipe near by.

"Wal, yes, kind o' late," he assented, sizing me up with a twist of the eye. "'Count o' the rains, I s'pose. On'y hope 'tain't Joe's voice ag'in," he added, shaking his head.

This puzzled me. "Joe" was evidently the driver, but what had his voice to do with the stage-hours?

"Is he a singer," I asked finally, "that he has to be so careful of his voice?"

"Joe a singer?" chuckled the backwoodsman. "Why, bless yer soul! 'tain't his own nat'ral voice I'm a-speakin' of. It's somethin' outside of him, 't follers him an' tells him when there's danger ahead. True's my name's Rufe Wilson!" seeing my incredulous look. "Why, where'd ye come from, 't ye hain't never heerd o' Joe Granger's Voice?"

Not much liking a journey through this wild country with a cranky guide, I began to question the man. He told me some very strange things, which were cut short by Joe's arrival with the belated stage.

To my relief, the driver looked neither like a fool nor a knave. He was a sturdy fellow, with a shrewd, honest face, and a practical manner. Watching him, I wondered at the word tales I had heard, till I reflected how easily a local superstition is built up on a few coincidences. Meanwhile he hustled around for fresh horses, and we were soon off at a brisk pace to make up for lost time.

There were a couple of sportsmen on the box-seat, and three inside passengers besides myself. These were carrying on a political discussion, interspersed with complaints about the delay. One of them, named Knowles, seemed particularly aggrieved, and I fell asleep to the sound of his grumbling.

All at once I woke with a confusion of voices in my ears. The stage had stopped, and three heads were out of the windows, asking what the matter was. I put mine out, too, and looked about.

We were at the top of a hill, down whose rocky sides the road dropped almost like a straight line. Joe sat gripping the reins in his hands, and trying to answer half-a-dozen questions at once. Dominant over all rang Knowles' insistent voice.

"What are you waiting for?" he demanded impatiently. "Why don't you go on without losing any more time?"

"Tain't safe"—Joe began. But Knowles cut him short.

"It's a road you go over every day. Why isn't it safe?"

"Bridge gone," laconically, motioning down into the gloomy ravine.

"How do you know it's gone?" Knowles took him up sharply. "You can't see the bottom from here."

"No, but I know it's gone, though," doggedly.

"The man's drunk—or crazy!" Knowles looked around at us in perplexity. "How can he tell the bridge is gone without seeing the place?"

The story of the mysterious Voice came to my mind, and I hastily told it for what it was worth. Knowles received it with angry incredulity.

"It's a swindle! an imposition!" he exclaimed. Then, to Joe: "I'll report you. You'll lose your job."

"I'd ruther lose that than my passengers' lives," answered Joe. "I heerd that Voice right in my ear, a-sayin',—'Bridge gone! Go back!'—An' I mean ter go back."

"Go back!" exploded Knowles in a passion. "And lose to-night's train to Lakeford? I tell you I've got an engagement there to-morrow that means money, and I'm not going to miss it for all the fool-voices between here and Canada!" He appealed to the rest of us: "Gentlemen, I don't imagine any of you care to take this journey over again for nothing? I propose to go on, whether or no. If the driver is afraid, let him go back. We can manage among us to take the stage over to Lakeford."

"Oh, I can coach us easy enough"—began one of the sportsmen. But Joe broke in hoarsely.

"For God's sake, gents, don't do it! I can't explain this 'ere Voice, but I never knowed it to fail. I tell you, the bridge is gone, an' so'll you be ef you keep on."

Joe's earnestness did not convince us. Or, if any felt a misgiving, he would not acknowledge it before the others. Knowles had set the pace, and the rest of us were bound to keep up to it.

Finding resistance useless, Joe sullenly submitted. "All right! Ef she's a-goin' on, I'm a-goin' on with her. Only remember," speaking slowly, "once we start down this 'ere hill, we can't stop on the way, nohow."

"Who wants to stop?" retorted Knowles. "What we want is to go on."

"You kin go." Joe spoke with sinister quiet. "But don't blame me, ef you sleep at the bottom of the river to-night."

We took our places again. But this time I mounted to the box-seat. For, in spite of sober reason, I felt a vague uneasiness, which made me prefer to face the danger if danger there was.

Never shall I forget that descent! It was the steepest I have ever known, and, as Joe had said, once started there was no stopping on the way. The stage, gathering momentum with every turn of the wheels, went plunging downward at a frightful speed, between an unbroken forest-growth on one side and a sheer precipice on the other. Faster and faster the trees flew by, like a modern version of the Wild Huntsman's Ride. We all sat silent, for it was a situation that strained the nerves up beyond the talking-point. Once, indeed, one of the sportsmen did ask Joe some question, but Joe only muttered: "First man 't speaks to me, I'll pitch him off, headforemost!" After that not a word was said.

It was a splendid day in mid-October. The abrupt contrast of crag and ravine, intensified by the vivid autumn colors, now in their fullest fire, made up a picture such as I had never seen before. Ordinarily I should have had eyes only for the unfamiliar beauty of this mountain-scenery, but now I could not keep them off the driver. His face was furrowed with the fierce tension, and the muscles stood out like whipcord where he had knotted the reins around his wrists to control the pull of the horses. On we rushed, till an increasing roar told of our nearness to the hidden river; still on, till a break in the woods showed it suddenly at our very feet, racing over the rocks among whirling logs and broken timbers.

The bridge was gone!

We were so close now that another bound must bring us to the brink of the white, boiling torrent; another—

I caught my breath for the coming struggle. Suddenly I felt a strange jerking motion, and saw that Joe had headed us to a little clearing among the trees. The horses, wrenched from their course, plunged violently, and the stage turned on itself at a sharp angle. One of Joe's arms dropped helpless to his side, and together we brought the stage to a standstill, pitching and swaying at the very edge of the chasm, with the water not three feet from the horses' hoofs!

In a jiffy we were all on the ground, and had pulled Joe down. We found that his arm was dislocated, but he bore the pain like a Spartan, though the great drops on his drawn face showed the mental strain he had gone through.

Fortunately, one of the sportsmen knew enough of surgery to set the arm. As we crowded around, Joe caught sight of Knowles.

"Looks like you won't hev ter report me, after all," he said, with a faint smile. I'll lose my job for one while, anyhow."

Knowles bit his lip. "Come now, my man, don't talk like that. Don't you think that river is all the reminder I need?" with a look at the rocky whirlpool below. "But even if you do have to lie by for awhile," he continued, "you won't lose anything by it. We're going to make up a purse for you—Oh, yes," as Joe shook his head. "It's only a fair exchange, and you certainly have earned the money."

But Joe protested that he wanted no money for merely doing his duty, a resolution which was probably strengthened by the taunt about his being afraid. Finally an idea occurred to me based on Mr. Rufe Wilson's gossip, and I called Knowles aside. After a little debate, we returned to the circle about Joe.

"Now, about this money," said Knowles in a matter-of-fact way. "We want to show that we set some value on our own lives, so, as you are too obstinate to take it, we shall give it as a wedding present to one of the pretty girls in Wintacook—Miss Amanda Harris, say? Of course, you couldn't object to that?"

Joe looked up with a start, and, catching the twinkle in Knowles' eye, blushed to the roots of his hair. Then a slow smile spread over his face, as he answered:

"I s'pose you'll hev ter settle that with 'Mandy herself. 'Tain't fur me ter tell her thus an' so. An' I guess 'twouldn't be of no use ef I did."

There was a general laugh at this frank admission, and the purse was made up on the spot.

When we took the stage back to Wintacook, we found the little community in a state of excitement. Some trappers had just brought in the report that a log-boom higher up the river had burst, and swept down-stream carrying all before it. Great was the relief, therefore, to see our party return, safe if not exactly sound.

We remained there over night, continuing our journey next morning by a different route. I did not hear Knowles say another word about his broken engagement. Probably he thought it a cheap exchange for a broken neck.

The following year, having occasion to visit Lakeford again, I asked one of the station-hands if Joe Granger still drove the stage from Wintacook.

"Does now," he answered. "There was a while, months back, 't he had ter lay by 'count of a twisted shoulder. Furst-rate thing fer him, though! Ye see, there was a lot o' city gents he saved from drownin', time the bridge was swep' away by a log-boom bustin'. They acted real gen'rous by him, I've heerd. Made his gal a big present. An' now he's got married, an' paid off his morgidge inter the bargain."

"Quite a stroke of luck," I said. "And that Voice, the one that warned him of danger, is that with him still?"

"Sure! Sticks to him like a brother. Queer, ain't it?" he added meditatively. "But I guess there's more things a-goin' on round us 'n we could 'count fur ef we was ter try ever-so."

"There are more things in Heaven and Earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy," I assented with a smile to this new version of Shakespeare's theory.

"That's the idee to a dot," said the man admiringly, as he turned to cope with a big dray of trunks.

Just then I saw my train steaming in, and hurried forward to meet it. And that is the last I ever heard of Joe Granger's Voice.

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Twinette, the Inquisitive Spider.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WINETTE, the spider, was young, hungry and industrious. "Weave yourself a web, my dear," said her mother, "as you know how without teaching, and catch flies for yourself; only don't weave near me in the corner here. I am old, and stay in the corners, but you are young, and needn't. Besides, you would be in my way. Scramble along the rafters to a little distance off, and spin. But mind! just see there's nothing there—below you, I mean—before you begin. You won't catch anything to eat if there isn't empty space about you for the flies to fly in."

Twinette was dutiful and obeyed. She scrambled along the woodwork of the roof of the church—for it was there her mother lived—till she had gone what she thought might fairly be called a little distance off, and then stopped to look round, which, considering she had eight eyes to do it with, was not difficult. But she was not so sure of what there might be below.

"I wonder whether mother would say there is nothing here—below me, I mean—but empty space for flies to fly in?" said she.

But she might have stood wondering there forever. So she went back to her mother, and asked what she thought.

"Oh dear, oh dear!" said her mother, "how can I think about what I don't see? There usen't to be anything there in my young days, I'm sure. But everybody must find out things for themselves. Let yourself down by the family rope as you know how, without teaching, and see for yourself if there's anything there or not."

Twinette was a very intelligent young spider, quite worthy of the age she was born in; so she thanked her mother for her advice, and was just starting afresh, when another thought struck her. "How shall I know if there's anything there when I get there?" asked she.

"Dear me, if there's anything there, how can you help seeing it?" cried the mother, rather teased by her daughter's inquiring spirit, "you with at least eight eyes in your head!"

"Thank you. Now I quite understand," said Twinette; and scuttling back to the end of the rafter she began to prepare the family rope.

It was the most exquisite thing in the world—so fine you could scarcely see it; so elastic it could be blown about without breaking; such a perfect grey that it looked white against black things, and black against white; so manageable that Twinette could both make it and slide down by it at once; and when she wished to get back, could slip up by it, and roll it up at the same time.

It was a wonderful rope for anybody to make without teaching. But Twinette was not conceited. Rope-making came as natural to her as eating does to intelligent little boys, so she thought no more about it than we do of chewing our food.

How she did it is another question, and one not easily answered, however intelligent we may be. This much may be hinted: Out of four little spinning machines near the tail came four little threads, and the rope was a four-twist of these. But as each separate thread was itself a many-twist of a great many others, still finer, I do not pretend to tell the number of strands (as rope-threads are called) in Twinette's family rope. Enough, that as she made it now, it has been made from generation to generation, and there seems to be no immediate prospect of a change.

The plan was for the spinner to glue the ends to the rafter, and then start off. Then out came the threads from the spinning machines, and twist went the rope; and the further the spinner travelled, the longer the rope became.

And Twinette made ready accordingly and turning on her back, let herself fairly off. The glued ends held fast, the four strands twined closely together, and down went the family rope, with Twinette at the end, guiding it. Down into the middle of the church where there were carved oaken seats below, with carved oaken figures at the ends of each.

Twinette was about halfway down to the floor when she shut up the spinning machines, and stopped to rest and look round. Then, balancing herself at the end of her rope, with her legs crumpled up round her, she made her remarks:

"This is charming!" cried she. "One had need to travel and see the world. And all's so nice in the middle here. Nice empty space for the flies to fly about in; and a very pleasant time they must have of it. Dear me, how hungry I feel—I must go back and weave at once."

But just as she was preparing to roll up the rope and be off, a ray of sunshine streaming through one of the windows, struck in a direct line upon her suspended body, quite startling her with the dazzle of its brightness. Everything seemed in a blaze all round her, and she turned round and round in terror.

"Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear!" cried she, for she didn't know what to say and still couldn't help calling out. Then, making a great effort, she gave one hearty spring and, blinded though she was, shot up to the roof as fast as a spider could go, rolling the rope into a ball as she went. After which she stopped to complain.

But it is dull work complaining to one's self, so she soon ran back to her mother in the corner.

"Back again so soon, my dear?" asked the old lady, not overpleased at the fresh disturbance.

"Back again at all is the wonder," whimpered Twinette. "There's something down there, after all, besides empty space."

"Why, what did you see?" asked her mother.

"Nothing; that was just it," answered Twinette. "I could see nothing for dazzle and blaze; but I did see dazzle and blaze."

"Young people of the present day are very troublesome with their observations," remarked the mother; "however, if one rule will not do, here is another. Did the sunbeam shove you out of your place, my dear?"

Twinette said, "Certainly not—I came away of myself."

"Then how could there be anything there?" asked her mother. "Two things cannot be in one place at the same time. Just try to get into your own place, while you are there yourself, and see if you can."

Twinette did not try, because she knew she couldn't, but she sat very silent, wondering what the sunbeam could be if it was nothing at all! a puzzle which might have lasted her forever. Fortunately her mother interrupted her by advising her to go and get something to do. She really couldn't afford to feed her out of *her* web any longer, she said.

"If the sunbeam kills me, you'll be sorry, mother," said Twinette, in a pet.

"Nonsense about the sunshine," cried the old spider, now thoroughly roused. "I dare say it's only a little more light than usual. There's more or less light up here in the corners even, at times. You talk nonsense, my dear."

So Twinette scuttled off in silence, for she dared not ask what light was, though she wanted to know.

But she felt too cross to begin to spin. She preferred a search after truth to her dinner, which showed she was no commonplace spider. So she resolved to go down below in another place and see if she could find a really empty space; and accordingly again prepared the family rope. When she came down, it was about half a foot further east than before, and a very prosperous journey she made.

"All's safe so far," said she, her good humor returning. "I do believe I've found nothing at last. How jolly it is!" As she spoke she hung dangling at the end of her rope, back downwards, her legs tucked up round her as before, in perfect enjoyment, when suddenly the south door of the church was thrown open, and a strong gust set in. It was a windy evening, and the draught that poured into the church blew the family rope, with Twinette at the end of it, backwards and forwards through the air till she turned quite giddy.

"Oh, dear, oh, dear!" cried she puffing, "what shall I do? How could they say there was nothing here—oh, dear—but empty space for flies—oh, dear—to fly in?" But at last, in despair, she made an effort of resistance and, in the very teeth of the wind succeeded in coiling up the family rope, and so got back to the rafters.

It was a piece of rare good fortune for her that a lazy, half-alive fly happened to be creeping along just at the moment. As she landed from her air-dive she pounced on the stroller, killed him and sucked his juices before he knew where he was, as people say. Then throwing down his carcass, she scrambled back to her mother and told her what she thought, though not in plain words. For what she thought was that the old lady didn't know what she was saying when she talked about empty space with nothing in it.

"The sunbeam is nothing," cried she at last, "though it blinded me because it and I were in one place together, which couldn't be if it had been anything; and now this is nothing, though it blows me out of my place twenty times in a minute, because I can't see it. What's the use of rules one can't go by, mother? I don't believe you know a quarter of what's down below there."

The old spider's head turned as giddy with Twinette's arguments as Twinette's had done while swinging in the wind.

"I don't see what it can matter what's there," said her mother; "if there's room for flies to fly about in. I wish you'd go back and spin."

"That's another part of the question," remarked Twinette, in answer to the first half of her mother's sentence. In answer to the second she scuttled back to the rafter, intending to be obedient and spin. But she dawdled and thought, and thought and dawdled, till the day was nearly over.

"I will take one more turn down below," said she to herself at last, "and look round me again."

And so she did, but went further down than before; then stopped to rest as usual. Presently, as she hung dangling in the air by her line, she grew venturesome.

"I will sift the matter to the bottom," thought she. "I will see how far empty space goes." So saying she re-opened her spinning machines and started afresh.

It was a wonderful rope certainly, or it would not have gone on to such a length without breaking. In a few seconds Twinette was on the floor. But she didn't like the feel of it at all, so took to running as fast as she could go, and luckily met with a step of woodwork on one side. Up this she hurried at once, and crept into a corner close by, where she stopped to take breath.

"One doesn't know what to expect in such queer outlandish places," observed she; "when I've rested I'll go back, but I must wait till I can see a little better."

Seeing a little better was out of the question, however, for night was coming on, and when, weary of waiting, she stepped out of her hiding-place to look around, the whole church was in darkness.

Now it is one thing to be snug in bed when it is dark, and another to be a long way from home and have lost your way, and not know what may happen to you next minute. Twinette had often been in the dark corner with her mother, and thought nothing of it. Now she shook all over with fright, and wondered what dreadful thing darkness could be. Then she thought of her mother's rules, and felt quite angry.

"I can't see anything, anything, and I don't feel anything," murmured she, "and yet here's something that frightens me out my wits."

At last her very fright made her bold. She felt about for the family rope; it was there safe and sound, and she made a spring. Roll went the rope, and up went its owner; higher, higher, higher, through the dark night air; seeing nothing, hearing nothing, feeling nothing but the desperate fear within. By the time she touched the rafter, she was half-exhausted; and as soon as she was safely landed upon it, she fell asleep.

It must have been late next morning when she woke, for the sound of the organ music was pealing through the church, and the air vibrations swept pleasantly over her frame; rising and falling like gusts of night, swelling and sinking like waves of the sea, gathering and disappearing like vapors of the sky.

She went down by the family rope to observe, but nothing was to be seen to account for her sensations. Fresh ones, however, stole round her, as she hung suspended, for it was a church festival, and beautiful flowers were grouped round the altar and pillars, and filled the air with fragrance. Still, nothing disturbed her from her place. Sunshine streamed in through the windows—she even felt it warm on her body—but it interfered with nothing else; and meanwhile, in such way as spiders hear, she heard music and prayer; whether as music and prayer come to us, or as deaf men enjoy sound by touch, let those say who can! A door opened, and a breeze caught her rope; but still she held fast. So music and prayer and sunshine and breeze and sweet perfume were all there together; and Twinette was among them, and saw flies flying about overhead.

This was enough; she went back to the rafter, chose a home, and began to spin. Before evening, her web was completed, and her first prey caught and feasted on. Then she cleared the remains out of her chamber, and sat down to think; for Twinette was now a philosopher. It came to her while she was spinning her web. As she crossed and twisted the threads, her ideas grew clearer and clearer, or she fancied so, which did almost as well. Each line she fastened brought its own reflection; and this was the way they went on:

"Two or three things can easily be in one place at the very same time—" she fixed that idea in her mind very tight as she fastened a thread of her web. "Sunshine and wind and perfume and sound don't drive each other out of their places"—she said to herself. "Light and darkness, and sunshine and wind, and sound and sensation, and fright and pleasure, don't keep away flies"—the little interlacing threads of her tiny web now looked quite pretty as she placed them. "How many things I know of that I don't know much about"—the web got thicker every minute. "And perhaps there may be ever so many more beyond—ever so many more—ever so many—beyond." Those were her very last words. She kept repeating them till she finished her web; and when she sat up in state, after supper, to think, she began to repeat them again; for she could think of nothing better or wiser to say. But this was no wonder, for all her thoughts put together made nothing but a cobweb, after all!

And when the sexton's broom swept it, with others, from the roof, Twinette was no longer in the little chamber below. She had died and bequeathed her cobweb-wisdom to another generation. But, as it was only cobweb-wisdom, spiders remain spiders still, and still weave their webs in the roofs of churches without fathoming the mystery of unseen presences below.

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BY

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The Distinguished Historian

Hon. REDFIELD PROCTOR
United States Senator from Vermont and ex-Secretary of War

Hon. JOHN M. THURSTON
United States Senator from Nebraska

THIS magnificently-illustrated, richly-filled, and scholarly volume gives a complete and authentic history of the Spanish-American War from its beginning to its close. Its authors are three world-famous men, **Hon. Henry B. Russell,** *the distinguished historian,* **Hon. Redfield Proctor,** *Senator from Vermont and ex-Secretary of War,* and **Hon. John M. Thurston,** the brilliant *Senator from Nebraska,* men who have made their mark in literature and public affairs.

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We can fill this entire paper ten times over with letters from agents thanking us for the money they have made with this fast-selling book.

One of our old Agents in California, a Clergyman, writes:—"I am happy to inform you that both boxes arrived safely, and the books are beautiful. You have shipped to me over 1,200 books since I began working for you, and I wish to say that our business relations have invariably been so very pleasant that I always find pleasure in thinking of myself as your agent, and try to make myself worthy of the house."

One of our Agents on the Pacific Coast says: "I have 148 orders in my canvassing book, with a strong prospect of bringing the list up to 200. It is the fastest selling book I ever tried, and I have tried lots of them."

An Agent in New York writes: "I have canvassed just a little around where I live, having made only 35 calls in the neighborhood, and I secured 29 BONA FIDE subscribers, netting me over $35.00 profit last week, besides attending to my other work."

An Agent in Illinois writes: "I only canvassed a week, and have taken orders as follows: 14 copies in morocco binding, 34 copies in extra cloth, and 2 copies in plain cloth, making 50 copies, netting me a profit of about $75.00."

A Lady in Iowa writes "I would rather sell this book than any book I ever handled I have 203 orders in my canvassing book now. My profits thus far exceed $360.00."

One of our Agents in New York recently re-canvassed a township that had been run over by another agent for a worthless "History of the War." He writes: "I sent you a draft a few days ago for $382.30. Since then I have been working in the country and have taken 56 *more orders in three days.* I find that the agent who preceded me with that poor, miserable book has been all over the town, but did not sell twenty copies."

One of our Agents in Iowa writes:—"I would rather sell Russell's 'History of Our War with Spain' than any book I ever handled, and I have sold many different books. *I have 183 copies* to deliver next month." Two agents selling "war books" came into town, but when I showed them mine they were so delighted with it and so discouraged with their own, that both have written you for an agency.

An Agent in Texas writes:—"I have had good success in delivering my books. They give perfect satisfaction to everyone and my subscribers are delighted. I never liked anything that was *work* so well. I cleared $138 on last delivery."

An Agent in Kansas took 100 orders the first week he canvassed, and 274 orders the first four weeks, working an average of 4½ days each week. *(His profits amounted to over $250.)*

One of our Agents in the State of Washington writes: "The book takes beyond all my expectations. Some seem eager to subscribe. I shall work as fast as my strength permits and shall canvass thoroughly." *(This agent sold over 200 copies in a very short time.)*

From one of our old Agents.—"I have had a very good week. One of our first business men told me that I have more orders already than were obtained by five different agents who recently canvassed the place for as many different books."

From another new Agent.—"This week's work shows 33 names. I have kept ahead of all other agents, and the grass has not grown under my feet. For two days I took an order from everyone I approached." [This agent never canvassed before. He has sold over 300 copies, and has made more money than he ever earned in the schoolroom as a high-grade teacher.]

One of our Agents in Kansas writes:—"I have secured 25 orders from the first thirty persons I called upon. I have handled many books in the last twenty-five years, but I believe I never saw a book before which literally comes as near selling itself as this one does. If I do not order a couple of hundred in a few weeks, I ought to be turned off." (This agent took 95 orders in the first two weeks, working only four days in each week and he cleared over $160.00. He says he will double that in the next two weeks.)

One of our Agents in Georgia writes:—"Enclosed find my first weekly report. I have taken 49 orders in three days, and have only begun work. The fine illustrations captivate all. The evident value and beauty of the book make it easy to sell." *(This agent had sold up to the time this paper went to press 175 copies.)*

From a New Agent.—"I was out on the 13th and 14th, and obtained 19 orders in 24 calls, and the outlook is good for a rich harvest in this section of the country, in spite of the hard times. I have lived in this town for twenty years. I want more territory, for I know this book is going to have a large sale, and I propose to devote most of my time to it. I have never canvassed before."

An Agent in Indiana writes:—"I have used my best efforts this week, and have succeeded in getting *eighty-seven* subscribers. I have, all told, *one hundred and sixty-four* bona fide orders. My profits thus far amount to over $200.00."

☞And thousands of other letters from successful and delighted workers.



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And now, dear reader, will you not make one of our agents? Do you wish to make money speedily and honorably? You can do it *if you will.* We offer you the opportunity. Locality has nothing whatever to do with success, for *all territory is fruitful for this book,* and small places pay better than large ones. ☞**DISTANCE IS NO HINDRANCE,** for ☞**WE PAY FREIGHT CHARGES,** and if necessary **WE WILL GIVE CREDIT.** Some of our very best agents are on the Pacific Coast, and in foreign countries, and we take good care of them. Experience is not essential, for **WE WILL TEACH YOU.** Do you want work? *We offer it to you.* Are you looking for something to do? *Here is steady employment.* Do you want to Earn Money? *Here is your opportunity,* and a better one cannot be found.

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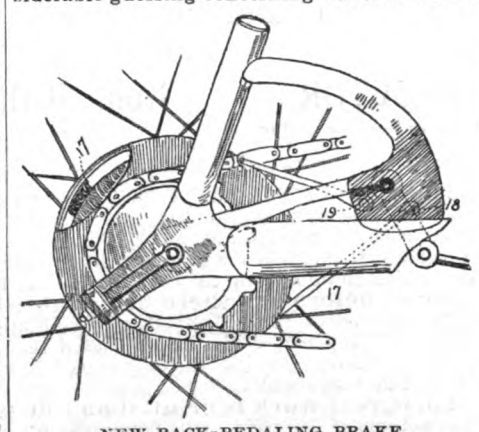
NEW inventions for the bicycle multiply with every wind that blows. The Patent Office at Washington sees a constant stream of them coming in; some odd, some worthless, some excellent and all interesting to a wheelman.

One of the recent ones that seems really of practical benefit is a back pedaling brake. The new brake is the result of a year and a half's study and work on the part of two Minnesota boys and will probably be on the market another year for general sale. The brake is attached to the hub of the rear wheel of the bicycle and is applied by a slight back pressure of one of the pedals. In coasting, the cranks assume a horizontal position, and should the wheel go too fast a slight back pressure of one of the pedals applies the brake and stops or checks the speed. The brake is released by a pressure on the other pedal. The device is compact, so much so that it would not be noticed on a passing bicycle. In connection with the accompanying cut the following is taken from the description in the patent. The brake mechanism comprises means whereby, upon applying a slight back pressure to the pedal, the wheel may be placed under the complete control of the rider, allowing him to bring the wheel to a full stop, or, in coasting, to regulate its speed. These means consist of a bell crank lever, pivoted upon a stud-bolt by a nut in a horizontal slot formed in a brace, brazed or otherwise secured to the lower end of one of the back stays and the rear end of one of the back forks of the frame of the machine.

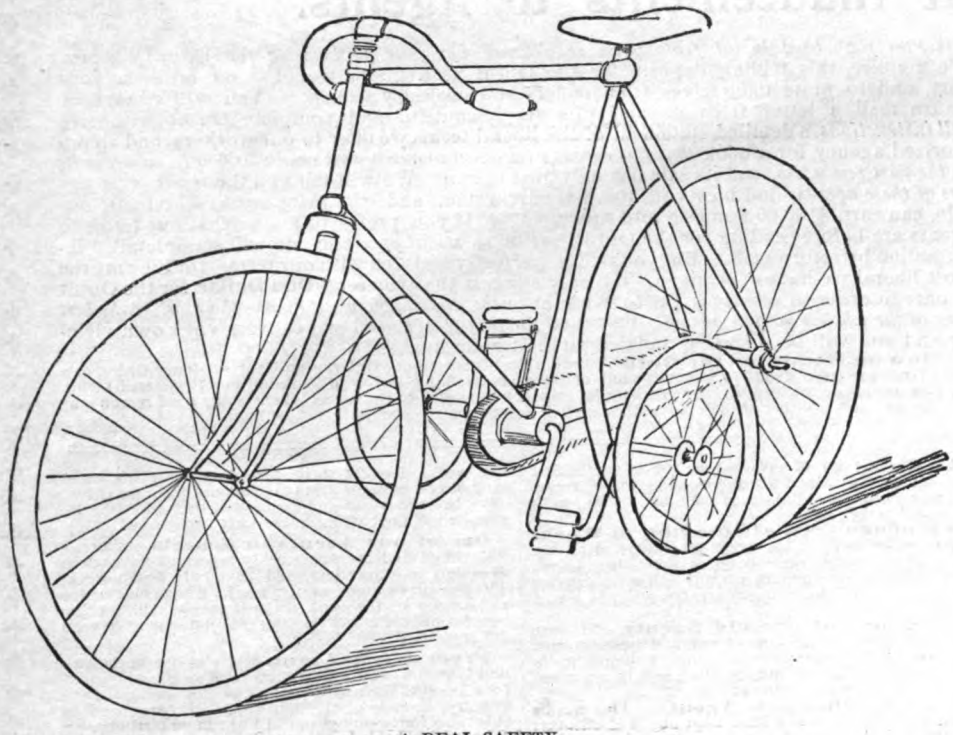
Figure seventeen denotes a brake band which encompasses the brake wheel and has one of its ends attached to 18, a stud on the bell crank lever, and the other end secured to a stud, 19, on said bell crank lever, so that when said lever is rocked or actuated the band will be drawn tightly about the brake wheel and thereby check or completely stop the motion of said wheel. This band is preferably formed of spring steel, so that when pressure is removed from the bell crank lever the band will spring from frictional contact with the brake wheel. It is one of the lightest and neatest and most powerful brakes invented. It is hardly noticeable on a wheel. The pedal stop is not visible. Brakes on the tires have been discarded by most riders, as there is too much injury to the tires, and too severe a strain on the forks of the forward wheel. Besides, they are apt to cause accidents to the rider instead of preventing them. With pedal rest and brake the rider does not remove his feet from the pedals to coast, and has a brake that will stop in one-half of the distance that he can by back-pedaling without any exertion whatever. Then with the pedal stop and brake combined it is all worked by the feet without removing them from the pedal. The hands are not used in any way in applying the brake, nor is the position of the body changed in anyway. The pedal rest works automatically; the pedals stop all movement when the rider is not working the feet. This will not affect the running of the wheel until the brake is applied, or it stops of its own accord. If when descending a hill he stops the feet in any position desired the wheel will glide along the same as though he removed his feet from the pedals for coasting. If he wishes to apply the brake he has the right pedal back on a horizontal line with the left in front, or can have them the reverse. By bearing down on the back pedal he applies the brake, which works very gradually, if so desired. The more he bears down the tighter it will brake. The device is powerful and the rider can put his weight on the pedal braking the wheel, if so desired. This will lock the wheel almost solid and cause the bicycle to stop on any hill without any danger of lifting the rider over the handlebars. To relieve the brake he simply bears down on the forward pedal; then he can still coast or pedal the wheel. The pedal stop makes coasting safe. It takes only a very modest amount of weight to apply the brake, from five to twenty-five pounds of pressure will brake it on any hill.

The bicycle that will not upset has long been the dream of bicycle inventors and wheelmen. The so-called "safety" is not really safe at all, at least until its capricious tendencies have been mastered according to the known laws of physics. The name "safety" was given to it to differentiate it from the high wheel of years ago, the high wheel having no elements of safety but many of danger. When the foreign wheel makers hit upon the idea of the modern wheel it was so much safer than the old model that its name seemed natural enough. The one illustrated is a new model and is a "real safety"—one on which it is impossible to "get a spill."

During the past season there has been considerable guessing concerning whether wheeling is truly increasing or has entered upon a decline. It has been a wholly natural speculation. The story from the trade, well confirmed, is that there have been more bicycles sold this year than ever before during a twelvemonth, and this on its face means that more wheels are being ridden. On the other hand, many roads which have for years been most popular and which on every fair day have been a cycling promenade have shown smaller crowds than ever before, and therefore, many have come to the conclusion that bicycle riding is dying out. The impression has become deeply seated in the minds of riders and some other observers, especially those inclined to be pessimistic. To them nothing would fully explain the unusual circumstances. The rains of spring and the protracted heat of midsummer might be considered sufficient to explain the slackness of wheeling traffic at this time of the year.



NEW BACK-PEDALING BRAKE.



A REAL SAFETY.

The real truth, however, is that there are more winter riders now than ever, more who go out on wet days, windy days and hot days than ever, but less proportionately to the total number who ride. There is no doubt, too, that it is the spreading of good roads that has caused the change. This is something that has come upon the community so gradually that it has been but little recognized. As an explanation of the facts of cycling, it can be pertinently presented in paradoxical fashion, by saying that the apparent decrease in the sport is due to its actual growth. There are more riders than ever, but they are not so much in evidence. Bicycle riding has been disseminated and is outspread instead of concentrated. Formerly wheelmen had only a few local roads on which to find good riding. Gradually the good districts have been increasing, and now they are beginning to exist everywhere.

Riders a few years ago kept their wheels for home use, the asphalted boulevards and macadam roads and cycle paths. Now when they leave town for the summer, or for a week or two, they take their wheels with them, because the improved highways make it worth while. In bygone years they kept together in companies of club parties. The ways to-day are so manifold that no one needs a guide. Any habitual rider with a large circle of acquaintances is pretty sure to meet acquaintances on the road. If he does not he will find amiable hotel keepers, who in other years refused shelter to cyclists and set dogs on them, but who now have maps and guidebooks and cycling literature in the parlors.

According to a Strasburg Justice, a bicycle suit is not a fit thing in which to go to court. A rider who was summoned recently for violating an ordinance went to court dressed in his bicycle costume. He pleaded guilty to the charge and paid the fine. The judge then imposed an extra five marks "for appearing before the court unbecomingly dressed."

Cheap and poor bicycles are now being manufactured in Japan and are having some sale, but American and English machines are generally used. French machines are used there, but are so heavy that American wheels will entirely supersede them. The use of bicycles in China is somewhat peculiar. Only the upper or richer classes ride, the poor people of China hardly having sufficient means to keep body and soul together. Their use is certainly increasing, though at present there are very few in the country. That would be an excellent country for a young man to go to and establish a bicycle factory.

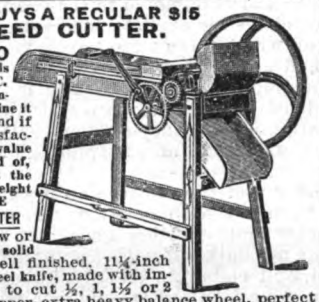
SELF HOME TREATMENT FOR LADIES.
I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female troubles, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask. MRS. SUMMERS, Box C, Notre Dame, Ind.

The word porcelain, as applied to pottery, originated in Japan during the thirteenth century.

BUGGIES DOWN TO $16.50.
By co-operation the cost of building open buggies has been reduced to $16.50; top buggies, $22.75; top phaetons, $37.50; top surreys, $43.75, and all other vehicles at proportionately low prices.
All of our readers can get the benefit of these low prices by cutting this notice out and mailing to Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, who will send them free by mail a complete catalogue of all kinds of buggies, carriages, wagons, harness, etc., etc.

Six Steel Pens Free.
Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta Maine.

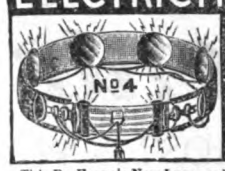
$7.45 BUYS A REGULAR $15 FEED CUTTER.
Send Us $1.00 and we will send you this Feed Cutter by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent the balance, **$6.45** and freight charges. THIS IS THE CELEBRATED SALEM CUTTER for cutting hay, straw or fodder; frame heavy solid seasoned hardwood, well finished, 11¼-inch genuine Enger silver steel knife, made with improved adjustments to cut ½, 1, 1½ or 2 inches, malleable hopper, extra heavy balance wheel, perfect adjustment, lightest running, largest capacity and most durable 165-pound cutter ever made. Write for Free Agricultural Implement Catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)



$3.75 14K A $25 WATCH for $3.75/100
That's what you will say when you see this magnificent full engraved hunting case watch, fitted complete with high grade ELGIN Style movement absolutely guaranteed for 5 years.
Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination, you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay the express agent our special introductory price $3.75 and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want gent's or lady's size and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for sixty days only. Address
R. E. CHALMERS & CO., 860 Dearborn St., CHICAGO.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.



ELECTRICITY IS LIFE AND WE GIVE IT FREE TO SUFFERING HUMANITY



This Dr. Horne's New Improved Regular $20 Electric Belt (with suspensory appliance for male) **THE BEST ON EARTH,** warranted to cure all chronic and weakening diseases of both sexes, will be given away **FREE OF ANY COST** for advertising purposes to sufferers from any of the following diseases—**Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Pains in the Back, Head and Limbs, Spinal Disease, Paralysis, Kidney Complaints, Torpid Liver, Neuralgia, Nervous and General Debility, Female Complaints, Constipation, Asthma, Headache, Dyspepsia, Catarrh, Cold Extremeties, Throat Troubles, Heart Trouble, Sleeplessness, Blood and Skin Diseases, Epileptic Fits, Dumb Ague and all weaknesses of men and women.** We mean just what we say, **FREE OF ANY COST.** There are no charges of any kind to be paid by you. We are making this offer to further introduce our Electric Belts and Appliances in new localities, believing that it will pay us in the end. We shall not give away more than one belt to any one person and not more than one in any locality and only to such persons as we think are worthy sufferers, not exceeding one hundred. We have already given away hundreds of these belts to introduce them and it has always paid us, and we believe it will continue to pay us or we could not afford to do so. Send us your name and address and waist measure, and state the nature of your disease. Answer at once. All answers must be sent through the mails and received by us not later than December 10th, 1898, as that is the date on which we shall give away the belts and furnish each person with a list of those receiving them. Address
DR. HORNE ELECTRIC BELT & TRUSS CO., Dept. 17. Chicago, Ills.
$1000 REWARD paid to any person proving this advertisement is not honest in every word it contains.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.



Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1¼ doz. Packages of Bluine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required.
BLUINE CO. Box 312, Concord Junction, Mass.

50 LBS BEST GRANULATED $1.00
50 lbs. SUGAR GRANULATED $1.00
We sell 50 lbs. best granulated sugar for $1, and all merchandise at lowest wholesale prices. SEND NO MONEY, but enclose 7 two-ct. stamps for catalogue quoting 50 lbs. best granulated sugar for $1.00 and many other bargains.
U. S. SUPPLY HOUSE,
[Salesmen Wanted] Dept. D Chicago, Ill.

A BIG OFFER
50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. **We pay in advance.**
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JUST LIKE RAIN.



Every person who cultivates plants should have one of these Bent Neck Sprinklers for sprinkling plants or flowers in house or garden. Also useful to sprinkle clothes for ironing, spraying clothing or carpets to prevent moths, and to disinfect sickrooms, etc. Much better than dipper or watering pot for every purpose. For plants, destroys red spiders, knits, caterpillars, etc. Sprinkles plants and flowers very quickly without injuring or soaking the earth and soiling everything else near. Constructed so simply of a rubber bulb and hard rubber spray that it cannot get out of order, and will last almost a lifetime. Acts exactly like nature and is the only true substitute for rain in plant life.
AN OFFER TO YOU. To induce you to take a six months' trial of our great Home Story Paper, we will send you one of these large size Sprinklers and the paper on trial six months, all charges prepaid, for only 63 cents. Don't neglect this. Address
NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

YOU MAY BE NEXT

One person out of every four has a **weak or diseased heart,** and still very few people are aware of it. The trouble is that most doctors don't understand heart troubles. They very often treat patients for disorders of the Stomach, Lungs, Kidneys and Nerves, when the trouble is in the heart itself.

You can tell whether your heart is affected better than a physician. The signs and symptoms are sure and certain. If you have **any one** of the following symptoms, you are in grave danger, and may be the next victim to drop dead.



***Symptoms of* HEART DISEASE**

Fluttering, Palpitation, or Skipping Beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); ***Shortness of Breath*** from going up stairs, walking, etc.; ***Tenderness, Numbness or Pain*** in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; ***Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep; Dreaming, Nightmare; Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Dropsy; Swelling of the Feet or Ankles*** (one of the surest signs); ***Neuralgia Around the Heart; Sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.***

MEDICINE SENT FREE. I have a positive cure in my Heart Tablets for this most dreaded of all diseases. I am daily curing hundreds of men and women. To show my confidence in my Heart Tablets, I will send, postpaid, a box for trial ***absolutely free*** to any sufferers who will send their name and address. This liberal offer should be accepted at once, because heart disease is always fatal, and death comes like a flash of lightning. Enclose stamp for postage. Address, **DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Lock Box 962 Augusta, Maine.**

EASY MUSIC CHEAP.
COMFORT'S NEW CHART of CHORDS for the PIANO.
A New and Quick Method of Learning to Play the Piano or Organ Without a Teacher.



You Learn in a Moment What it Takes a Teacher Months to Explain to You.

There have been many so called easy methods and charts devised but this is the latest and best. It is intended for those who have not the time to take lessons. A complete self-instructor, enabling anyone to play the piano or organ **at sight.** This chart is the practical result of years of study by a noted American composer and musician. With this chart anyone can become an expert pianist, playing accompaniments to the most difficult songs at sight, as well as dance music, marches, etc. These charts are valuable to the advanced musician as well as to the beginner, embracing nearly every major and minor chord used in music. It is the most comprehensive yet simplest chart ever published, and is endorsed by teachers and musicians everywhere.

To introduce "COMFORT'S CHART" in every home, we will send **free** with each chart the "GIANT ALBUM OF SONGS," containing **184 Songs with words and music,** including the great hits, **"I Won't be a Nun,"** and **"The Mountain Maid's Invitation."** Also old and new favorites, and war songs.

We will send this CHART OF CHORDS and the GIANT ALBUM OF 184 SONGS, with "COMFORT" for six months for only 25 cents in postage stamps or silver. Address
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Widows Who Married Famous Men.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



It is not generally known that several of the greatest captains of humanity have chosen widows for wives. Whether it was that they considered these much maligned ladies as being better housekeepers than mere inexperienced girls, or that they had to succumb to fascinations all the more seductive in proportion to their mellow maturity is one of those problems the solution of which is outside the range of the present paper. Sufficient to say that most of these captains were on the best of terms with their wives—even though these women had been previously widows.

Among the illustrious men who became the husbands of fair relicts may be mentioned two presidents of the United States, several kings, one First Consul (afterward Emperor), the founders of two religious communities, the adherents of each of which may be counted by the hundred million, and a host of *literateurs*, scientists and philosophers. Washington, the Father of his country, became the husband of Mrs. Custis, the widow of a southern gentleman who died leaving his wife encumbered with several children. George Washington was as fond a father of these tots as Bonaparte was of Josephine's son and daughter, the fruit of a former union of that lady. Like Napoleon's, Washington's marriage was barren. Unlike the "little corporal," however, the President of the United States did not repudiate his wife because she bore him no issue. Mrs. Washington was the soul of good nature, and in thorough touch with her husband till death called him from her side.

Andrew Jackson, another of our presidents, became enamored of a buxom and beautiful widow named Mrs. Robard whose former husband was of French extraction; and after some difficulty, which only made him all the bolder in his wooing, he won her lily white hand, and never had any reason afterwards to regret his marriage, for the lady loved her grizzly warrior as dearly as Desdemona did the dusky Othello.

The first and last of Henry VIII. of England's wives were widows, Catherine of Arragon the relict of his elder brother, and Mrs. Parr whose first husband was a respectable British *bourgeois*. George IV., while still the Prince of Wales, contracted a secret union, solemnized by a Roman Catholic clergyman, with Mrs. Fitzherbert, the charming young widow of Mr. Thomas Fitzherbert, a Catholic country squire. Mrs. Fitzherbert was known as the "sweet lass of Richmond Hill" where she resided. Her widow's cap and weeds enhanced so much the charms of her pretty face, and the symmetry of her dainty figure, that poets addressed sonnets to her in those days and gallants gay knelt at her feet. The Prince, however, was the lucky individul who bore off the prize. He soon tired of her however, and taking advantage of the fact that the union was annuled by the Royal marriage act which refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of marriages contracted by members of the Royal family without the consent of the reigning sovereign, he publicly espoused a German princess, the unfortunate Charlotte.

Bonaparte's first wife was a widow. Her maiden name was Josephine Tascker de la Pagerie. She was born in 1761, and at the age of sixteen became the wife of the Viscount de Beauharnais, who it may be interesting to note, fought side by side with Lafayette in the war of American independence. Beauharnais was guilotined by the Revolutionists of Paris in 1794, leaving his wife a widow at 33. A short time afterward her beauty and lonely condition attracted to her the admiration and pity of General Bonaparte, and as pity is akin to love, the great warrior eventually proposed for her hand and was accepted. It is doubtful, however, if she loved him. He seems to have magnetized her into submission to his will. Writing to a lady friend before her marriage, the Viscountess observes: "You have met the general in my house. Well, he it is who would supply a father's place to the orphans of the Viscount, and a husband's to his widow. 'Do you love him?' you might ask. Well, not exactly; yet he dazzles me, and I know I will have to surrender him my heart. Moreover all my friends are urging me to marry him." The union was very happy throughout its opening year; but Napoleon, anxious for an heir, treated Josephine with the utmost cruelty by procuring a divorce from her, and marrying the daughter of the Emperor of Austria. Lucien Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother, married the widow of Jacques Jouberthon, a wealthy French trader who died in the West Indies. Napoleon was so deeply incensed at this *mesalliance* that he refused to confer the title of Prince on his offending brother, and he and his family were excluded from all rights to the succession of the crown. The French Emperor's sister, Pauline, married Gen. Leclerc, and accompanied him to San Domingo, where he succumbed to the yellow fever after only a few months of matrimonial bliss. His afflicted widow—she was scarcely twenty-two years old at the time—had his embalmed body covered with her jewelry deposited in a coffin, and returned with the precious casket on board a French vessel to France where Leclerc's remains *minus* the ornaments were buried. Alas for the constancy of a widow's love! Ten months had barely elapsed since the death of the "dear defunct" than, arrayed in these very jewels that were once strewn on Leclerc's corpse, she stood at the foot of the altar pledging her heart and hand in marriage to an Italian nobleman, Prince Borghese, a millionaire, worth $250,000 income a year. The Princess a few years afterward developed into the most handsome woman in Europe. Her second marriage, despite its splendor, was a failure, and the pair soon separated.

Widows captured the hearts of the messiahs of Mahomedanism and Methodism. Mahomet was an impecunious young man when he entered the employment of Madame Khadijah, who was a wealthy widow, and in business for herself. Mahomet was appointed her traveling agent in which capacity he had to attend to the transportation of her merchandise from Mecca, where she lived, to Pyria. Khadijah fell devotedly in love with Mahomet, though she was "fat, fair and forty," and he was only twenty-five years of age. Seeing the widow's infatuation for him, and wishing to please the lady in every way possible, he asked for her hand, and she willingly consented to give it to him. Their marriage was a most happy one. He now had wealth as well as a devoted wife who had yielded to him cheerfully the entire management of her business affairs. This union raised Mahomet very high in social circles in Mecca, and enabled him to start the religious movement which afterwards assumed such remarkable proportions, and which numbers to-day in its communion several hundred million souls. His wife, it may be interesting to note, was the first of all his nation who believed in Mahomet as the Prophet of Allah. Her death, which occurred when he had just inaugurated his crusade was a sore affliction to the prophet; but he was somewhat compensated by the fact that the vast wealth, which he now possessed, enabled him to succeed in the mission which he had undertaken. Perhaps, if the Widow Khadijah did not happen to have taken a fancy to Mahomet, Mahomedanism might never have been heard of. A woman's amatory whims have often revolutionized the world. John Wesley in an unfortunate moment married the widow of a London merchant, named Vaseille. Mrs. Vaseille, was, it seems, as mild as a sucking dove while Wesley was her suitor; but when she became the wife of that eminent divine, she displayed her shrewish propensities, took no interest in his religious mission, and annoyed and exasperated the good man so much by her purse-proud vulgarity that he had to separate from her.

Only one post is on record as having married a widow. Poets are too gushingly fond of innocent maidens to have any sentimentalities left to shower on the love of dead men's wives. Addison, who was an essayist as well as a bard, and who reached the zenith of his fame in the beginning of the last century, was anxious to connect himself with the English aristocracy. With this object he wooed and won Dowager Countess of Warwick, widow of Edward Rich, Earl of Holland and Warwick. Dr. Johnson said of Addison's marriage: "It is very much like the espousal of the daughter of a Sultan, who addresses the young lady as follows during the ceremony: "Daughter, I give thee this man for thy slave." Though the poet through his union with the countess became the occupant of Holland House, that famous haunt of literary and political wits, he lived under petticoat rule; the proud countess, who had abandoned her title to become plain Mrs. Addison, regretted when it was too late her marriage with one who, though he was Secretary of State under George I. was nevertheless her social inferior. She had her revenge however, and led him many a sad dance in the gorgeous *salons* of Holland House. Addison must have had his unruly spouse in his mind's eye, when he wrote these lines, in his Opera of Rosamond:

"I glow, I burn, I freeze, I shiver,—
Whence rises this convulsive strife?
I smell a shrew—
My fears are true—
I see my wife!"

Dr. Johnson fared better at the hands of the widow whom he made his wife, although, like Mahomet, he was some fifteen years her junior. The doctor met his lady love during his salad days in Birmingham. He was the very reverse of an Adonis or a Don Juan in personal appearance. He had unpolished manners, long straggling unkempt locks, a scrofulous face and seedy clothes. Yet Mrs. Elizabeth Porter, the widow of a shopkeeper, a corpulent dame provided with a grown up family, married this young man who was at the time a mere literary hack. The union of this pair was one continued honeymoon. Johnson was accustomed to call her his "Tilly" and she in return gave him the pet name of "Sam." The doctor used to make himself very ridiculous sometimes among his friends of referring to his wife as "that pretty creature." The fact was that she was almost as ugly as himself, but love is blind. Her death, which occurred some ten years after the marriage, was a great shock to her husband. A decade or so afterwards, however, he entertained a deep but platonic affection for another widow, Mrs. Throle, till that middle-aged relict eloped with a young Italian tenor.

Several English statesmen of our own day have not disdained to become the husbands of consolable widows. Two of them, Disraeli and Salisbury comforted the fair relicts of deceased colleagues by stepping into the shoes of their dear departed. Disraeli in his early career was a colleague for the same constituency in the British Parliament of a wealthy Tory Squire, Mr. Wyndham Lewis. On Lewis's death he paid his addresses to the widow whom he persuaded to marry him. He was a much more brilliant man than Lewis, and eventually became prime minister of England and Earl of Beaconsfield. He owed much of his success in life to the wise counsels as well as to the wealth of his wife. Lord Salisbury married the widow of his colleague, Lord Derby, and at the same time took the place vacated by that deceased nobleman in the British cabinet. In this way Derby's death was a double boon to the Tory leader. The widow of the good-for-nothing Duke of Manchester—I refer to the dowager Duchess—gave her hand at fifty to that old bachelor the Duke of Devonshire, formerly the Marquis of Hastington. They had, it seems, been lovers thirty years ago, but a lover's quarrel induced the lady to marry the Duke of Manchester. She bitterly repented of her hasty conduct afterwards; but when she was left a widow she was glad to become the wife of her old flame, and so all was well that ended well.

Mrs. Patterson, the widow of an obscure Oxford professor, gave her hand to Sir Charles Dilke at a time when his name was scandalously compromised in the London Divorce Court.

Such are a few of the interesting widows who have enmeshed geniuses and potentates in their dainty toils, and thus associated themselves intimately with the sealing spirits of many ages. To the credit of these fair ladies be it said that on the whole they managed these petted darlings of fame much better than any boarding-school maidens could have done.

$2.00 Outfit Free to Agents.

Any of our readers who are desirous of employment or attractive articles to handle as agents will do well to read large advertisement of Household Novelty Works, Chicago, which makes special offer in another part of this issue.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

5 DROPS' FRIENDS.

At least a million and a quarter of true honest friends, who having proven its never failed merit, are only too willing to shout its praises far and near. This must appeal to you. A million and a quarter of people cannot all be mistaken. **5 Drops' friends** are found in every State of the Union and in every clime. The Doctor, the Lawyer, the Banker, the Merchant, the Mechanic and the Farmer, all unite in one joyous **jubilee of thanks** for **5 Drops.** It may be just the Friend you have long sought. Given the opportunity it will remove that **burden of sorrow** in your home. It is the **enemy of disease** but the **conquering hero** for Health and Happiness. Help us to make better known this Friend and **Savior** of the Sick and Suffering. If, happily, you are strong and well, let some poor suffering Friend know what **5 Drops** has done for others and will do for them. The letters published on Page 5 must convince the most skeptical of the Marvelous Powers of this **"The Greatest of All Household Remedies."**

THE CELEBRATED CORNISH AMERICAN PIANOS AND ORGANS.

ONE YEAR'S FREE TRIAL

WE WILL SHIP A PIANO OR ORGAN ANYWHERE UPON THE DISTINCT UNDERSTANDING THAT IF IT IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO PURCHASER AFTER TWELVE MONTHS' USE WE WILL TAKE IT BACK.

It would be impossible for us to make public this unique CORNISH PLAN of doing business were it not backed up by the strongest evidence of our absolute responsibility. The Cornish American Pianos and Organs are warranted for twenty-five years, and with every warrant there is our personal guarantee endorsed by a business reputation of nearly fifty years and plant and property worth over **One Million Dollars.** Our success in the past has been mainly owing to the confidence placed in us by the public, and we have a **quarter of a million satisfied patrons** bearing testimony to the honesty of our methods and the perfection of the Cornish American Pianos and Organs.



Mention Paper.



All the new Cornish American Pianos and Organs are fitted with **ORCHESTRAL AND INSTRUMENTAL ATTACHMENTS,** and the newly invented **Multitone Combination Actions,** perfectly imitating the **Harp, Guitar, Banjo, Zither, Mandolin,** and nearly every musical instrument. These wonderful additions to the ordinary scope of the Piano and Organ are only to be obtained in our instruments.

FOR FULL PARTICULARS OF THE **World Famous Cornish Plan,** and for a complete description of the instruments made by us see our new Souvenir Catalogue for 1899, handsomely illustrated in colors. The most comprehensive musical catalogue in the trade. The frontispiece is a masterly reproduction in fac-simile of an interesting oil painting, designed and executed for us by an eminent artist, representing "An Ancient Egyptian Choir at Early Temple Service." This beautiful catalogue is sent **FREE** charges prepaid, and we also include our novel reference book "The Heart of the People," Catalogue, Book and our Latest Special Offers.

REMEMBER that a prompt response to this advertisement will secure a DISCOUNT of $10.00 on the list prices, as quoted in our 1899 Catalogue on any **CORNISH ORGAN,** or $20.00 on the list prices if you buy a **CORNISH PIANO.**

REFERENCES. Our bank, your bank, any bank, or any of the multitude of patrons who have purchased millions of dollars' worth of instruments from us during the past fifty years.

PIANOS FROM 155 DOLLARS COMPLETE WITH ALL LATEST MUSICAL ATTACHMENTS

ORGANS FROM 35 DOLLARS CASH OR EASY PAYMENTS

SEND FOR PARTICULARS OF OUR POPULAR CO-PARTNERSHIP PLAN, BY MEANS OF WHICH A CORNISH AMERICAN PIANO OR ORGAN CAN BE SECURED ABSOLUTELY FREE!

CORNISH & CO., (Established nearly 50 years.) **WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY.**

Makers of High Grade American Pianos and Organs.



2000 BICYCLES surplus stock '98 models, *must be sold* at once *below cost.* High Grade, any style, *guaranteed,* $9.75 to $18. Second Hand wheels, $3 to $10. Balance '97 models at your own figure. *Shipped to any one on approval—no money in advance.* Free use of wheel to rider agents. EARN A BICYCLE working for us. Write at once for our wonderful offer. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago.



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Please mention COMFORT when you write.



An Engraved Gold Filled Ring sent to you FREE. Set with four fine hand cut Brilliants and one extra fine Ruby representing a crescent. Send us 10 cents to help pay for the box it comes in and postage on our 50 page catalogue. CURTIN JEWELRY CO., Attleboro, Mass.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this big 825-lb. new 1899 pattern high grade RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, **$13.00** less the $1.00 sent with order, or $12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16½x18x11, top is 42x23; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamentations and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamented base. Best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you $25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least $10. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO.** (Inc), CHICAGO.



WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)



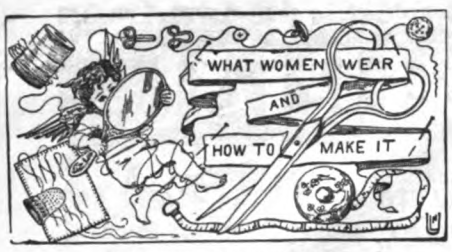
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Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE Fall and Winter season of '98-'99 is heralded by an unusual change in modes, bringing consternation to more than one woman who has trusted to renovating last season's garments. One of the first things noticed are the coats with rounded basques, falling much deeper at the back than in front. It is rather a risk at present to declare positively as to whether long or short coats will take first place in popular favor, but it is altogether likely that an extravagant license will be granted in this case, from the number of both styles of garments being made. To the tall woman, the long-tailed coat cannot fail to prove attractive, whereas to her of five feet nothing such garbing would merely result in a tragedy, and consequently Fashion, unusually kind and considerate, will, I am sure, give forth the decree that smartness will be stamped on the coat of curtailed character. No half-measures, however, will be permitted us; we either must wear a coat decidedly long or one decidedly short. There are obvious signs of the return of the newmarket, to each and all of which the added basque terminating invariably either side of the back, cut in one piece from top to edge, is a pronounced feature.

All shades of violet, heliotrope and all the soft, pinkish shades inclining toward that delicious mauve, are the pets of the hour. A smart costume is built of pink cloth, a rose color, very much faded and subdued, lending itself admirably to its decoration of brown fur. There is a skirt panel and vest of white, elaborately braided over in black and gold, and edged everywhere with a narrow band of Russian sable. There is a mulberry tint which promises to be very much in vogue; indeed, I may say that reds, too, have practically taken the lead next to mauve.

For those who can afford the cost, strapping and braiding in most elaborate patterns are being pressed into service. A feature of the strapping being the piping of white on both edges, or the outlining cord of gold braid. Long, slender effects are the acme of good style, a smart model of such a rig showing a costume in brilliant mulberry red broadcloth, with pipings of black satin edging the straps. The tight fitting skirt has a kilted flounce much deeper at the back than at the front, giving a wide fan effect at the foot, which effect is necessary to the well-being of all up-to-date skirts. The long coat is single-breasted, and half tight-fitting, the slender look intensified by the strapped seams in the back, and those laid on the front, forming pockets at the bottom. The rather broad coat collar has a facing of black velvet.

The new capes are the quaintest things imaginable, dropping low at the back and sloping upward to nothingness at the neck in front. Bias frills are their decoration, most frequently of their own material, while one and all are elaborately strapped, fur trimmed or braided. In the sketch shown the material is black velvet, the bias flounce set on by a tiny scallop of jet. Across the shoulders is a ruching of black taffeta ending in big rosettes, with fluted ends. The standing collar has a decoration of rosettes at the back.

The favorite hat is of course flaring from the face, sometimes trimmed with a couple of long, drooping plumes, arranged in a flat fashion, and sometimes decorated with tufts of lace and handsome jeweled ornaments.

Is it the outcome of the sash, or the mutability of the modistic mind that leads to the increasing demand for skirts with visible fullness at the back? Be it as it may, the demand is there, and to gratify it comes the skirt with two double box-pleats. For the right and proper hang of a box-pleat, it is essential that the center be on the straight of the material, which entails a bias seam either side of the back and consequently rather more material is



required than for the skirts of latter days. However, they are modish and new, and will be very popular during the winter.

Now that Dame Fashion has set her seal of approval on dressing the hair low in the nape of the neck, she should provide some way of fastening the hat on securely since there is no place to safely insert the regular hat pin, and no sane woman would resort to the unsightly elastic. It will be all right when we are wearing toques and capotes especially modeled to meet the coiffure exigency, but as things go at present, there is mostly a vacuum between the brim of the hat and this low dressing, and it is a mystery at present hidden away in the recess of each individual heart, or I should say head, as to where and how the hat-pins find a hold.

Although it has been rumored for some time now that veils are to terminate just below the nose, I have scarcely met any one yet bold enough to personally advocate this departure.



But there is certainly a decided inclination to do away with extravagant drapery beneath the chin, and this is to be regretted when for it is substituted that hideous little twisted knot so many girls resort to to keep their veils in position beneath the chin. Although a draw-thread answers all purposes, there is apparently a rooted objection to this mode. An ingenious device resorted to by a harassed friend is to pin the folds together with a tiny jeweled pin, which is unfastened when the veil has need to be raised. This appealed to me as a wrinkle worth repeating.

Always dampen tailor's canvas before using. Join all skirt seams at the top and work downward. Always cut the skirt of a dress first; odd pieces are quite as well for the bodice.



Put an interlining of tailor's canvas down the fronts of dresses in which buttonholes are to be made.

If the material is thin, bind the buckram all round with a piece of soft muslin cut crossways.

It is better to sew a sleeve in by hand; in doing it with a machine the gathers or pleats are apt to be pushed out of place.

Before inserting whalebone, soak it for a few minutes in hot water; it can then be bent to fit the seam for which it is intended.

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A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

Remnants of Silk Ribbons.

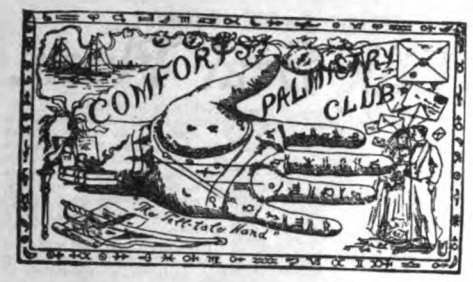


We have purchased at recent wholesale auction sale several large lots of Remnants of Silk Ribbons, at prices which will enable our lady customers to secure splendid bargains. These remnants are all from one to two and three yards in length, and many of them are the finest quality of Ribbons in the market, of different widths, in a variety of fashionable shades, in fact, nearly all colors are represented; also different kinds of Ribbons adapted for bonnet-strings, neckwear, trimmings for hats and dresses, bows, scarfs, etc., etc. No lady can purchase such fine Ribbons as these at any store in the land for many times our price, so that the bargains offered by us should be taken advantage of by our customers. Our stock of Silk Ribbons from which we put up these 23 cents packages consists of Crown Edge, Gros Grain, Moire, Picot Edge, Silk Brocade, striped Ottoman, and various other styles of Plain and Fancy Silk Ribbons suited to the wants of our lady friends. We put up carefully-assorted packages of Silk Ribbons, no remnants less than one yard long and all first-class, useful goods. One package for 23 cents with subscription, 3 for 60 cents, or one dozen packages, $2.00. Carefully packed and sent by mail, postpaid upon receipt of price.

Whether you have one or three packages we give in addition a six months' trial subscription; when you send for a dozen you receive them in addition to a whole year's subscription to this paper. They are our special premiums sent with the paper.

SPECIAL OFFER. We want you to get up a club and will send you a package of these ribbons when you send us two subscribers at the yearly trial price of 25 cents each; or, send us a club of six yearly subscribers at the special price of 25 cents each, and we will send six packages to you free.

Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I HAVE several questions to answer this month. One of our club members asks what the marriagel ine marked on the fate line means when a small line comes between crossing it, when both marriage lines on the Mt. of Mercury have slight forks at the end. I should say it meant where the little line comes between the marriage line and the fate line, some disturbing influence is felt for a short time; that some other person comes between husband and wife for the length of time that this lasts. But where the interference line draws away and the other two lines come together shows where this influence is lost from the life and where the husband and wife come together again as they should. Slight forks at the end of the marriage line have nothing to do with this line, the fork, according to its position may mean a thwarted marriage, or an unhappy one. When the marriage line under the little finger runs down toward the heart line without touching it, it means that the woman possessing it will be left a widow. The complexion of the future husband or wife cannot always be foretold, but when the lines show that this influence comes in under the Mt. of Saturn, it is pretty clear that the person will be a Saturn man; that is a dark one.

"Misfortune" asks a few questions in regard to his hand, says he does not mind answers that indicate misfortune. He asks if he shall be very wealthy. No, he will never be rich. There are no lines to indicate extreme poverty, but he will never be what is known as a wealthy man. His marriage will be a happy one and he will marry the woman he loves. He will travel somewhat toward the close of his life, and will have several lucky journeys but he will not travel during the middle of his life. As I have said before with regard to his hand, the early part of his life is much the more trying; from thirty-five onward his luck will change and everything will be more to his liking.

"Ardent Student" wants to know what the best books on palmistry are, after COMFORT's "Palmistry Guide" and Cheiro's "Language of the Hand." The book by Heron Allen, which can be obtained from any well-stocked book-store, is the best one probably, being made up largely from the old French writers on Palmistry, and containing the old theories which have come down to us from generations back. She also asks what the interpretation of the close joining of the fourth finger to the hand would be. I should say it would mean that the person would not be a good public speaker. That there would be a fear of one's own voice in public, and that the subject would be apt to have stage-fright if she appeared on the platform. If this quality appears in a woman it might mean difficulty in childbirth.



"MILL POND."

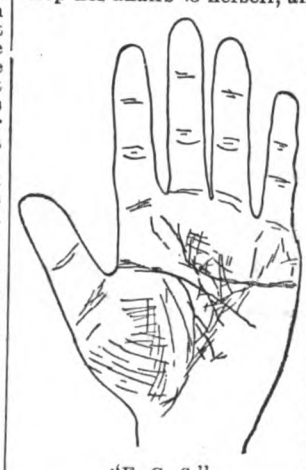
I have three hands to read this month. The first of these belongs to "Mill Pond." It is a hand denoting much delicacy and refinement of character; great tact and strong will-power. This woman could get along with almost any one and manage him easily so that the person would not know he was being managed. There is great delicacy of temperament and of thought. Nervousness is developed to a high degree. There is a love of art and music and of all the beautiful things of life. There is good ability for planning new moves, and an enormous amount of perseverance and courage to carry out ideas. The life line shows a delicate childhood and much illness until after the age of forty-five, when the health will improve with the prospects generally. A change of some sort comes into the life at near forty. I think there will be an illness at about that time, with some preservation from danger, and some radical change in the manner of life. I should think that marriage came at about that time, and it will be a happy marriage lasting for some fifteen years or more, and resulting in wealth, if not actually bringing wealth at first hand. The subject of this hand will be a widow. She does not marry the first one to whom she is engaged. In fact there have been some troubles caused by the affections, bringing deep grief, which have in some way affected the mind during the earlier part of the life. The subject is inclined to melancholia, but will improve as time goes on. There has been a good deal of trouble during the past ten or fifteen years, but much brighter times are ahead. There are several long journeys to be taken which will result in good. This is a decidedly peculiar hand in some ways. It shows a high-minded and refined woman, very delicate in all her tastes and pleasures. I think she will have no children. She has always received a good deal of admiration from the opposite sex. The best of her life comes during the latter half of it and she will live to be some sixty-five or seventy years of age; possibly more, as the lower part of the impression which I have is a little blurred.



"O. M. C."

A good impression comes from "O. M. C." This is the hand of a sensible business person; a person of good judgment and courage, and one who will probably succeed in life. He will have his way to make, however, through his own exertions, and it will take him a number of years to get fairly on his feet. After the age of twenty-five he will go on smoothly in his business matters until he reaches the age of forty-five, when something will happen that will cause him grief and somewhat unsettle his convictions. It will probably be something connected with a near relative, or his marriage relations. A decided change comes in about five years later, and at not far from the age of fifty he will have a serious illness but he will live on for some twenty years or so after that. I think he will be wealthy during his old age, but will make the money by his own exertions, and not from any favor of others, or any streak of luck. He will always work hard and do well. He will make a good husband, being faithful, honest and true, and is very steadfast and constant in his nature. On the whole, his hand is a fortunate one, and indicates prosperity from the time he gets fairly onto his feet until the end of his life. In matters of the heart he will be affectionate, and will probably marry a woman of dark complexion. Marriage with him will not come until about the age of forty or forty-five. In money matters he will be a wise speculator, and will never be a spendthrift, foolish in regard to money. He would succeed if he went into politics, but should not undertake to be a public speaker. On the whole his hand indicates force of character, perseverance, business judgment, and ultimate success.

"E. G. S." is the hand of a woman of delicate and refined character; one who is inclined to keep her affairs to herself, and to bear her own troubles. She lacks in tact, perhaps, but has strong will-power and a strong religious nature, with love of music and books. During the first fifteen years or so of her life she was very much bound down by the influence of others, and has not had a chance to come out for herself, or to form her own ideas. This has in some ways hampered her very much. Her life line is somewhat delicate but it is strengthened by an inner line, showing a better constitution than the life line alone would warrant. She is somewhat pugnacious in disposition and will not sit calmly down and see her own rights trampled upon without uttering a word in protest. She is fond of the opposite sex, of admiration, and is somewhat inclined to be coquettish. She has a good head line, however, which will keep her from being silly in this direction, although I do not think her marriage will come until late in life. Life for her will not be so long as in some cases, although she may confidently expect to see forty-five years at least. She needs to develop a spirit of self-reliance, and to cultivate her own thinking powers more; she depends too much upon the judgment of other people. I don't see signs of great wealth nor of extreme poverty. The latter part of her life, and in fact the middle portion of it looks fortunate. She is not a person who would succeed in any work where she must depend upon her own judgment; that is, if she works for a living she will have to be under guidance, and would never make a successful business-woman by herself. She is better fitted for married life; would make a good mother and a faithful wife.



"E. G. S."

I trust you have all preserved the directions for taking impressions of hands given in the last number; and also that you will bear in mind the rules for having your palms read in this column.

Digitus

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We ought to have a particular and special feeling of thankfulness this 1898 Thanksgiving over the abundant proof of the wealth of this nation. With the high Dingley tariff at our ports of entry and the regular internal revenue bill plus the special war taxes storing up the money of the country, we are yet able to scent prosperity afar. We pay it all and still "don't care."

The Czar's great manifesto for peace seems to be more provocative of discussion than results, and for that reason pessimists declare that it is a useless piece of rhetoric. This can hardly be admitted. It is only one more word added to the sentiment that prompted the advanced thinkers of England and America to urge arbitration as an equivalent for war. The idea of national disarmament has been brought before the conscience of Europe, and the discussion it provokes will prepare the public mind for action at some future time.

The West is nothing if not practical. For years French and German have been a part of the curriculum of public High Schools in spite of the fact that the greatest business outlook for the United States was in the South American Republics where Spanish was entirely the language of business. Chicago and St. Louis schools have recognized the business outlook of our probable new possessions by teaching Spanish in the public schools. The High Schools of New York gave this same opportunity to students last year. This is practical business ability. We have taught some nations to "walk Spanish" and our triumph will be complete when our business men can "talk Spanish."

Thanksgiving Day 1898 will be a real day of thanks all over this great land. The American nation feels that it has fought the good fight and kept the faith of freedom and the right, that it has vindicated the principles of the Declaration of Independence to all the monarchies of the Old World. The nation seems to be entering upon a new era of prosperity with widened commercial aspirations. In thousands and thousands of homes is thanksgiving for the safe return of loved ones who have become heroes in the eyes of the world. In hundreds of others is a mournful feeling of thankfulness that if sons, fathers and husbands must die they have died for their country's honor and fighting for a righteous cause.

Now that Cuba is to be allowed to experiment in governing herself and Porto Rico, and the Philippines are likely to become the property of America, it is interesting to recall the fact that fifty years ago the territory seemed to be passing into the hands of France. The Queen of Spain, Christina, offered to sell these possessions for forty million of reals. The French king haggled over the price but was willing to give thirty million reals for Cuba. Finally he offered seven million in addition for the other possessions. "This," he said, "is my price or else the contract must be thrown in the fire." The Spanish minister who was secretly opposed to the bargain at any price, sprang to his feet and threw the contract in the fire. Fifty years have passed and Spain sees those dependencies passing forever from her control after the expenditure of thousands of precious lives to retain them.

In spite of the undoubted bravery and popularity of the army officers who won fame at Santiago, Dewey is still the popular hero of the war. It is a strange fact in our history that naval men have never won their way to presidential honors through their victories. With army men military success has seemed the "open sesame" to the doors of the White House. We have but to recall the names of Washington, Jackson, Taylor and Grant to prove this statement. Among the candidates for presidential honors may be named McClellan and Hancock. What civil office has been awarded to men like our first hero, John Paul Jones, to Decatur, to Perry, to McDonough, to Porter, or to Farragut? The fact that naval men of prominence are usually line officers who have been long in the service and who engage in it as a life work, while many men who have risen to military prominence are not "regulars," may account for the seeming caprices of the goddess Fortune. It would seem now that if Dewey or Hobson would accept civil honors any office in the gift of the people might be theirs.

The murder of the Empress of Austria will doubtless result in international effects to suppress the Nihilists. It is just thirty years since the doctrine of Nihilism or total destruction of all existing forms of government both national and individual was first promulgated. Bakounine first advanced the theories at the Congress of the International in Geneva in 1868. Bakounine was a Russian noble who in his youth was a page of the Czar Nicholas. He was a giant in stature but exceedingly repulsive in appearance. At the Congress he proclaimed that he came to announce a new doctrine. The old world must be destroyed and replaced by a new. "Let your own happiness be your only law," said this destroyer of things as they are. The followers of this doctrine have increased during the thirty years of its existence and two European sovereigns and numbers of officials have lost their lives as a direct result of this teaching. If European nations take active measures to drive all suspected anarchists from their dominion the United States will be filled by this refuse of Europe. That is unless the United States takes its rightful position as the sixth great power of the world and acts in concert with the other nations.

The government has at last considered the needs of a very important part of its population and issued an "Old Maid's Chart." That isn't just what they call it but that's what it is. Every state in the Union is colored to represent the excess of its bachelor population over its spinster. Talk about superfluous women! The chart proves that such statements are malicious perversions of fact. The cold figures show that there are actually 2,200,000 more unmarried men than women in this country and that not one state has an excess of female population. Idaho has 1000 per cent. more men than women, Wyoming comes next and not even Massachusetts which has long been considered the special stamping ground of the anxious and aimless mass of unappropriated femininity, shows an excess of men. The old nursery rhyme says, "There's no goose so old and gray but that some gander walks that way." If this seems likely to be disproved the "goose" now has but to examine the government chart and betake herself to the section where the highest per cent. of "ganders," is indicated. The "Passing of the Old Maid" has been one of the most marked features of the woman movement. We have "bachelor girls" but the real genuine "old maid" belongs to an era of bachelorbuttons, marigolds and patchwork quilts. Now if we can prove by a chart that she never existed in statistical reality but was only a seeming result of geographical selection, half the romance of New England is gone. Tear up the chart, dispute the figures and give us back the romantic pathetic self-sacrificing "old maid" of early days. She was a minor chord that is needed in the crashing turmoil of modern life.

There are few virtues or vices of modern life so unimportant that they cannot claim a society for their advancement or suppression. Next to assisting our fellow mortals to do something they don't want to do, nothing is more entertaining than to prevent them doing something they do want to do. "SCAPA" is the latest society for looking after the scapegoats of business who are sent forth into the wilderness to make it blossom like a peony with hideous and glaring advertisements. We have commented before on the growing desire of an esthetic and beauty loving public to "get after" these people who prefer rocks, buildings and fences as a medium for reaching the public rather than the advertising columns of a paper. "SCAPA" translated means, "Society for the Correction of the Abuse of Public Advertising." It originated in England and Lord Herchell is its president. It already has branches in this country. It is proposed to have wheelmen take snap shots at some of these monstrosities of modern hustling and then to have these made into lantern slides with which to arouse public sentiment. One prominent man said, "A world entirely free from 'ads,' is a dream too enchanting to be realized." The "Scapa" ites will have to be very much in earnest and very energetic if they follow the trail of the serpent all over this land. The Adirondack wilderness is popularly supposed to be "far from the madding crowd," but over every boulder and ledge of rocks in the least frequented portions of the mountains was the glaring white and black of an advertisement. There are two interested parties to reform even after the public sentiment has been directed against the matter. The chief sinners live in cities and are the proprietors or "boomers" of the articles advertised. Then there is the farmer who has no artistic perception of the element of beauty which the soft gray "wood color" of his barns or rocks adds to the landscape. To cover these with black paint and gigantic yellow or white letters or to paint some figure of heroic size upon the broadside of the barn seems to him quite legitimate, especially when the price paid adds very materially to his income. "Scapa" has a hard task before it. The remark that a hard-headed old Yankee used to make as the final condemnation of any and all matters was, "There's no bread in that." It's an unanswerable argument to the larger portion of humanity. "There's no bread" in beauty and when sentiment for the beautiful clashes against sense for the needful the battle is sure to be to the strong.

November affords the best time for certain features of "Nature Study" as the acquaintance with the phenomena of the material world about us is termed in the schools. Children are now taught to observe all the facts of animal, plant and mineral life about them. It is claimed that this study cultivates the mind and develops the senses to a remarkable degree. There is another side to this work whose benefit cannot be measured. A person trained to a sympathetic observation of Nature is never alone. The secret of happy living lies in the number and variety of the things which we can find of interest. When we cease to feel an active interest in life we cease to grow. The majority of "grown up people" do not avail themselves of the pleasures of Nature which lie about them because they have not been trained to observe. "Tree Study" is at its best during the month of November. The trees, stripped of their mantel of foliage show distinctly their characteristic trunk and branch forms. How many of us observe that the elm always branches in two parts. This separation into two parts is repeated from the first mighty branches out to the tiniest little nodding twig. The oak offers as characteristic a form of branching. The evergreens carry their trunks up to the very top and branch at right angles and parallel with the earth. The varieties of maple present certain signs, the branches always giving an oval or egg shaped structure to the tree. These are facts that we see about us every day and yet how many of us really *see* them. How many branches or sprigs in a pine cluster? The number is always the same and yet we have seen pine clusters all our lives without being able to give a definite answer to the question. A certain portion of the Adirondack land has been set apart for the use of Cornell University. The scientific study of trees and tree growth is to be carried on here. We are beginning to feel that "the wide, beautiful, wonderful world" will repay all the study which we may give it and "tree study" is but one form of this new and widespread interest.

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LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
35	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
18	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
33	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasade
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
43	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Malden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
63	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
137	My Love Polka	Ziehrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
24	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
83	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
3	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
29	Sweet Long Ago Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
57	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
26	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
44	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reissmann
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
12	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
78	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
42	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
4	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song	Mosher
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	Bickmore
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
74	In Sweet September	Temple
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
54	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weber
136	Request. Sacred	Granger
23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Bullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Benza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
96	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne

Orders to be by Numbers (not names), and to be for not less than TEN Pieces.

DON'T FORGET that the price you have to pay for this sheet music is only **twenty-five cents**; that for this you get **ten pieces**, not one; that the quality is the best; that it is sent to any address, postpaid; that all the little details are up to the standard **including colored titles**; that the vocal pieces have full piano accompaniments; that the instrumental pieces give the bass as well as melody; that this sheet music is equal to any published. Also **don't forget** to make your selection at once, to send us the order, and to tell your friends about this great **Sheet Music Offer.** Satisfaction guaranteed. **Order by Numbers.**

PRICE OF ABOVE PIECES.

Any 10 for 25 cents.
Any 21 for 50 cents.
Any 43 for $1.00.
Any 100 for $2.25.

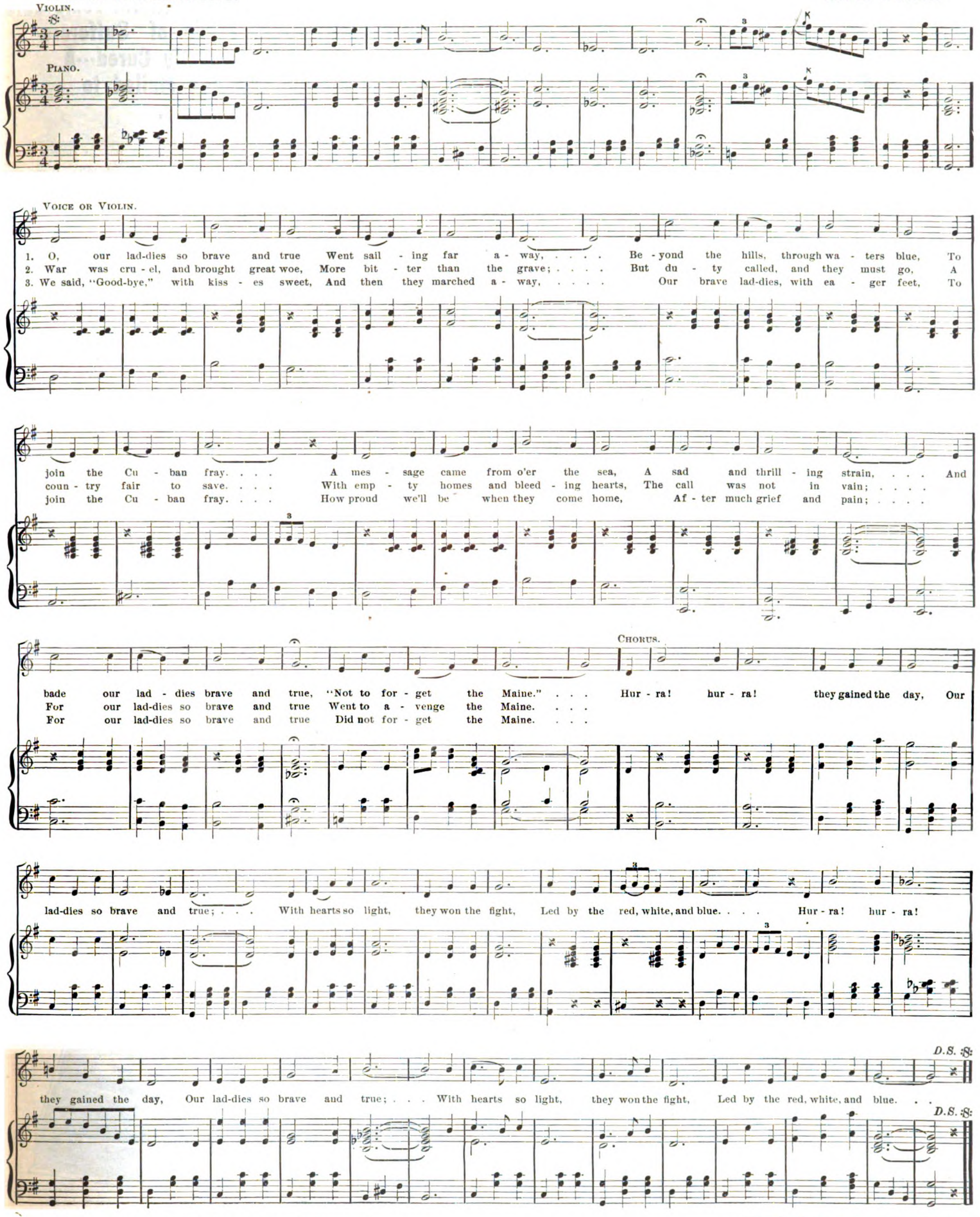
Write your name, full address, and list of pieces wanted by **the numbers**; enclose this, with stamps or silver, and mail or bring to address given below, and the music will be sent direct from Boston, postage prepaid.

SPECIAL OFFER To secure new trial subscriptions or extend old subscriptions, if you will send 15c. for 3 months extra subscription, we will send **any six** of the above pieces **free as** a premium, and for 25c will send any ten pieces or to *any subscriber who will select* **any twenty-one** *of the above pieces and send us 50c we will renew their subscription to "Comfort" for one year and* **give** *the music delivered absolutely free. You can readily sell ten pieces of the music for 50c and thereby obtain your subscription and the other eleven pieces for nothing. Don't delay, but order today.*

Address "COMFORT Music Room," Augusta, Maine.

OUR BRAVE LADDIES.

MRS. M. C. ARMSTRONG. ISAAC DOLES.



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F. H. GILSON COMPANY, MUSIC TYPOGRAPHERS, BOSTON, U. S. A.

PATRIOTISM IN MUSIC.

How the Hearts of Soldiers and Sailors are Stirred to Deeds of Valor.

Topics of Interest to Every Music Lover.

The part which music plays in nerving the heart to battle has often been the theme of writers. In all ages some form of martial music has inspired heroes to acts of daring. We all recollect how important a part the music took in the Biblical wars and history shows that all ancient nations depended upon this source of inspiration.

In later days three instances have been recorded, each noteworthy and showing how music aids in time of peril. In the terrible storm that wrecked several warships in the harbor of Apia several years ago, in the moments of most sublime peril the bands both on the American and English ships played National airs. In the deadly trenches of Santiago and on the awful heights of San Juan the bands inspired the Americans by playing "The Star Spangled Banner" and "There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town To-night." And last, as the white flag appeared on the last of Cervera's ships, the bands on all the fleet played the National air.

War always inspires both poet and composer and every strife brings out popular poems and tunes, bearing on the war. Our late civil war was replete with such compositions, and following our late successful strife with Spain, we may look for a large number bearing on that struggle.

"Our Brave Laddies" on this page is one of these war songs and is full of patriotism and fine feeling suitable to the theme. The music is of a nature which will at once render it popular. COMFORT congratulates its readers on securing a piece so deserving of merit and so full of timely interest and sentiment.

One of the most noticeable events of late years in the musical world has been the introduction of large and complete sheet music into homes at a nominal cost. Formerly the cost of sheet music, ranging as it did from fifty cents to a dollar and a half a piece, made it almost impossible for others than the extremely wealthy to indulge their tastes to any extent.

Under new conditions, rapid machinery and improved methods, the same class of music is now offered by COMFORT at prices which are but little more than is paid for mailing expenses. A few years ago this would have been impossible; but now it is an accomplished fact to send large, clear white sheet music with proper score and words at a trifling cost. Thousands and thousands of people are buying this music and all are delighted with it. The announcement is found on another page and is well worth the attention of every person interested. Even if the reader be not interested, personally, each one has dozens of friends who would like to see the offer and no better service can be rendered than to show it to them.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THIS is the month when the savory things flourish and the air is full of the odor of mince pies and all the other good things that grace the Thanksgiving feast.

Feasts on this day are more or less the same, the country over. Some have simply the roasted turkey, chicken pie, onions, squash and potatoes for the main portion of the meal, and for dessert the squash or pumpkin pie and mince pie, with fruit, nuts and raisins. This always fills the bill, yet it is often varied by using a goose in place of chicken pie, and by having salads instead of the heavier vegetables. In some parts of the country, notably in the farming districts, the menu is made up of what is easily gotten at—which certainly is not such vegetables as make a nice salad,—celery, radishes and lettuce,—but the vegetables which have been raised on the farm and which are reposing in the cellar waiting to be eaten. The fruit also, apples, pears and not infrequently hickory nuts and butternuts, are the product of the farm,—as is also the monarch of the feast, the turkey.

Every housewife knows, better than we can tell her, how to dress and stuff a turkey, so we are not going to try and make her dissatisfied with the dressing she has been using forty years,—but we have a dressing recipe which is used in Turkey and for those who love a change, and particularly anything that is served in the foreign style we think it will be a good chance to try it.

Clean and truss the turkey; wash and parboil one cup of rice in boiling water which has been salted; when partially cooked, drain and mix with it one quarter of a pound of washed currants, two ounces of blanched and chopped almonds, twelve French chestnuts peeled and cut into small bits, and one-fourth teaspoonful each of salt, paprica and ground cinnamon. Stir into this mixture half a cup of melted butter. Stuff the turkey with this, sew up the opening and bake on a rack, basting every ten minutes with butter melted in a little hot water. Turn the turkey often and dredge with flour after each basting. Serve with the customary gravy.

A good stuffing for goose or duck is made as follows:

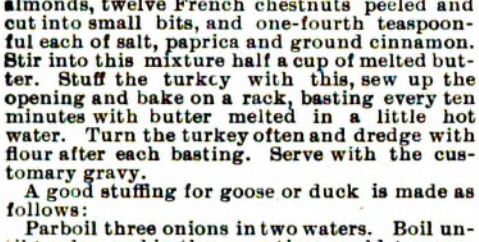
Parboil three onions in two waters. Boil until tender, and in the meantime scald ten sage leaves in hot water; dry thoroughly and chop with the onions very fine: add one and one-fourth cup bread crumbs, one-fourth teaspoon each of paprica and salt; mix well and add two tablespoons butter and bind with two eggs, well beaten.

Another stuffing is made by chopping the liver fine, fry in two tablespoons butter with one tablespoon chopped onion; mix with one-fourth loaf bread crumbs, one-fourth cup butter melted in one-fourth cup hot water; add one tablespoon parsley chopped fine, and the beaten yolk of one egg.

About the most satisfactory dressing, and one which an inexperienced housewife may not be afraid to tackle, is made of one cup of cracker crumbs mixed with one-fourth cup melted butter, salt, pepper and sage to taste; moisten with two-thirds cup of scalded milk.

Prepare the turkey by placing on a rack in a dripping pan; rub the entire surface with salt, spread breast, legs and wings with one-third cup butter rubbed until creamy with one-fourth cup flour. Dredge the bottom of the pan with flour. Bake in a moderate oven about three hours, basting every fifteen minutes with one-half cup butter melted in one-half cup boiling water, and after this is used up, use the fat that is in the pan.

For making the gravy, pour off the liquid from the pan in which the bird has been roasted, skim off four tablespoons of fat, return fat to the pan and brown with four tablespoons flour; add two cups stock in which giblets, neck and tips of wings have been cooked.



FAIRLY CAUGHT.

Cook five minutes, season with salt and pepper and strain.

CRANBERRY SAUCE.

Pick over and wash three cups cranberries; put in a stew pan, add one and one-fourth cups sugar and one cup boiling water. Cover and boil ten minutes; skim and cool.

POTATOES IN HALF SHELL.

Bake six medium sized potatoes. Cut a slice from the top of each and take out the inside; mash and add two tablespoons butter, moisten with three tablespoons hot milk, add salt and pepper and then the whites of two eggs well beaten. Refill the skins and bake eight minutes in a hot oven. Sprinkle, if desired, with grated cheese, before baking.

CHICKEN PIE.

Dress, clean and cut up two fowl. Put in a stew pan with half an onion, a sprig of parsley and a bit of bay leaf; cover with boiling water and cook until tender. When the chicken is half cooked, add one-half tablespoon salt and one-eighth teaspoon pepper. Remove chicken, strain stock, skim fat and then cook until reduced to four cups. Thicken stock with one-third cup flour diluted with enough cold water to pour easily; place an inverted cup in center of baking dish, arrange around it the pieces of chicken, pour over gravy and cool. Cover with plain paste and bake in a moderate oven.

PLAIN PASTE.

Work together one and one-half cups flour and one-fourth cup lard. Add one-half teaspoon salt and one-half cup cold water; wash and chill one-fourth cup butter, fold into the dough, and roll out three times, chilling between each rolling.

FRENCH FRUIT PUDDING.

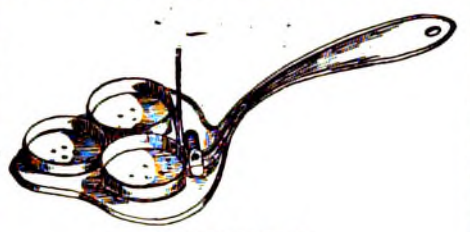
To one cup finely-chopped suet add one cup each of molasses and sour milk; then add two cups flour mixed and sifted with one and one-half teaspoons soda, one-half teaspoon each of salt and cloves, and one teaspoon cinnamon; add one and one-fourth cups raisins, seeded and chopped, and three-fourths cups currants mixed with one-half cup flour. Turn into buttered mould, fill two-thirds full, cover and steam four hours. Serve with

STERLING SAUCE.

Cream one-half cup butter, add, gradually, one cup brown sugar, one-fourth cup milk, drop by drop, and two tablespoons wine or brandy.

We illustrate a neat little egg poacher. The dropping of eggs, or poaching, is extremely difficult, and this utensil, which is quite inexpensive, costing only 25 cents, does away with all the difficulty. Butter the poacher and drop the eggs into the rings. Set poacher into a pan of boiling water, and when the eggs are done, lift out the poacher, press back the spring which raises the rings from the flat bottom, and let the water drain off; carefully pass a knife under the eggs and slide them from the poacher onto slices of buttered toast. This poacher is for only three eggs, but larger ones may be bought,—though sometimes it is easier to manage three at a time than more.

Vegetables may be put to other uses than the nourishment of the human body, as will be seen by the following suggestions regarding window gardening, which will interest many a small boy during the cold season, when there are so many stormy days in which he cannot go out, and when his stock of playthings gets exceedingly tiresome. Give him some carrots and sweet potatoes and let him busy himself by taking a carrot and cutting it off about five



EGG POACHER.

inches from the thick end; scrape out the yellow center until there is a hole three inches deep. Tie a stout string around the carrot and hang it in a light place, filling the hollow center with water. Soon the young sprouts will begin to shoot, and the feathery leaves will grow out and up and entirely cover the yellow root. Parsnips may be treated in the same way, and we all know that a sweet potato, stuck into a wide mouthed bottle filled with water and hung in the sun, will sprout and soon flourish and brighten the corner in which it hangs.

We recently heard of a small boy who experimented in a very ingenious way. He put a bunch of grape blossoms, still hanging to the mother vine, into a small-necked bottle, tied the bottle to the vine and let it stay there; soon the blossoms dropped off and the grapes began to form and completely filled the bottle; it hung on a sunny side of the vine and so the grapes developed fast. The bottle must, of course, be kept free from dew and water which would fill it after a heavy rain storm, otherwise the fruit will decay. When fully developed, the stem is cut from the vine and the bunch may be preserved in the bottle by filling the bottle with boiling water, into which has been put a few teaspoons of alcohol, and sealing fast with a cork and sealing wax.

Eight Page Music 2 1-2 Cents Each.

Many of the pieces of full page sheet music advertised under our great music offer consist of eight full pages printed on heavy white paper and have colored covers. You can get ten pieces of music for 25 cents. Read COMFORT'S music offer.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

FREE TEA SET.

Ladies, send us your name and address plainly written, and we will express you 75 packets of our sweet and exquisite ARABIAN PERFUME WONDER to sell among friends, at 10 cents each; when sold, remit us the money (less express charges) and we will send you a beautiful decorated china tea set of 56 pieces for your trouble, full size for family use. Name express office and address, Arabian Perfumo Co., Bridgewater, Conn.

95c FOR A32 CORN SHELLER



This is the most simple and effective arrangement for shelling corn ever made. There are only 6 pieces in the entire machine. Main frame, shell disc, shaft, tension, ring and crank. This sheller separates the corn from the cob, and deposits the corn in the box on which it is mounted and the cob outside. It has a perfect tension that can be adjusted instantly, will shell all sized ears, pop corn to the largest southern dent. Weighs 12 lbs. Sent to any address, by freight, on receipt of 95 cents. For all kinds of Corn Shellers, send for our Free Agricultural Implement Catalogue.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

FREE RHEUMATISM CURE

A Liberal Way to Prove That Gloria Tonic Cures Rheumatism---Thousands of Sufferers Have Been Permanently Cured---A Free Trial Package Mailed to All Who Apply.

It is safe to say that nearly everybody who has rheumatic pains has doctored till they are discouraged. They are disgusted with remedies that cost money and won't try another unless it is proven to be a specific for the disease and not a mere drug to sell. This is why John A. Smith who discovered a remarkable cure for rheumatism sends free to all a trial of his remedy so that the sufferer may know positively that Gloria Tonic cures the disease.

There are many people who are afraid to try even this free sample package fearing that it may contain something harmful. But all such are assured that Gloria Tonic is entirely safe and cannot harm even a baby.

Write for a free sample today. If you have a friend who suffers ask him to write also to Mr. Smith so that every person afflicted with rheumatism may be released from the terrible pains of this ruthless disease.

Address Mr. John A. Smith, 610 Summerfield Church Building, Milwaukee, Wis., and he will send a free trial package of Gloria Tonic by return mail, prepaid, or a full sized box may be obtained from your druggist for $1.00.



FREE! FREE!!

Any one can earn this Beautiful Gold Plated Hunting Case Stem Winder Watch, Charm, and Chain (guaranteed) a perfect timekeeper, by selling our ELECTRIC LAMP WICKS. They can be sold in a few hours. They are practically indestructible. No trimming; no smoke; no smell.

OUR GRAND 90-DAY OFFER: Send your name and address, and we will send you 20 wicks, postpaid; you will sell them at 5c. each and remit us $1, and we will mail to your address, free, a Beautiful Gold Plated Watch Chain and Charm.

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We recommend this Company as thoroughly reliable.—EDITOR.

FITS A Great Remedy Discovered. Send for a FREE package & let it speak for itself. Postage 5c. DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ills.

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We have a large quantity of work to give out to families (occupying their whole time or leisure hours). We send it by mail and have it returned by mail. Any person can do this work and easily make from $7 to $10 per week. Write at once for full particulars and instructions.

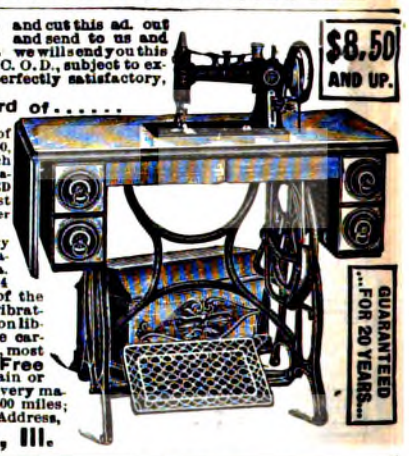
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SEND US ONE DOLLAR and cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this



$8.50 AND UP.

Our New Improved Iowa High Arm Sewing Machine by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, equal to any machine in the market, and pay the freight agent Our Special Price, less the $1.00 sent with order.

.....The Greatest Bargain You Ever Saw or Heard of.....

Our Special Offer Price is .....$15.25..... for a 3-drawer machine. $16.25 for 5 drawer and 17.25 for 7 drawer.

While we sell various makes and grades of Sewing Machines at $8.50, $10.00, $11.00, $12.00, $13.00, $14.00 and $15.00, all of which are fully described in Our Free Sewing Machine Catalogue, THIS, OUR NEW IMPROVED IOWA at $15.25 to $17.25 is the greatest value ever offered, the lowest prices ever named on a Strictly High-Grade Machine.

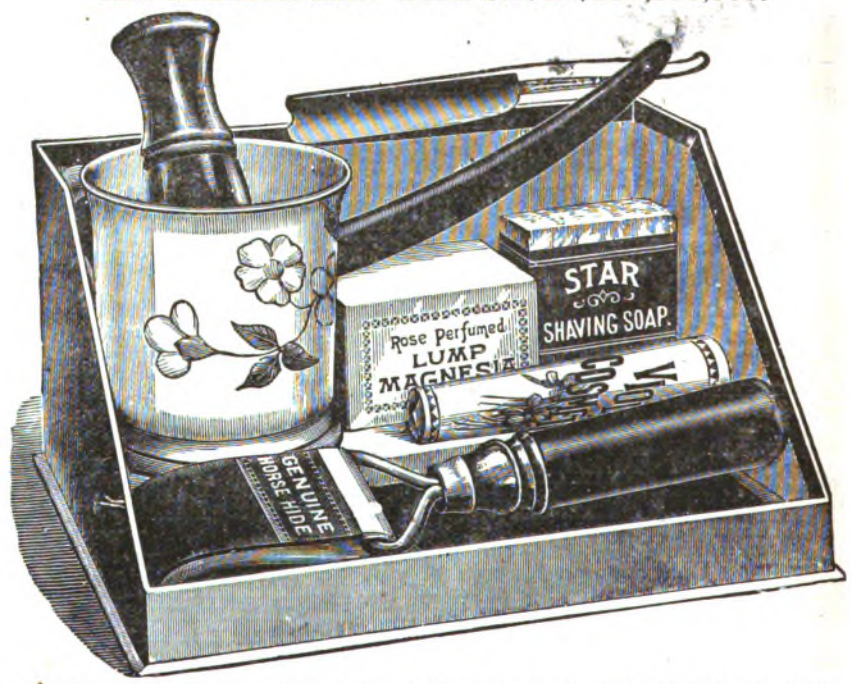
THE NEW IMPROVED IOWA has every modern improvement, every good point of every high-grade machine made, with the defects of none. Made by the best maker in America. Solid oak cabinet, fancy gothic cover, finest nickel drawer pulls, rests on 4 casters, ball bearing adjustable treadle, genuine 3myth iron stand, one of the finest high arm heads made, positive four motion feed, self threading vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard. One of the lightest running, most durable machines made. Every known attachment is furnished, and Our Free Instruction Book tells just how anyone can run it and do either plain or any kind of fancy work. A 20 YEAR GUARANTEE is sent with every machine. The machine weighs 120 pounds; 70 cents will pay the freight 500 miles; $1.25 for 1000 miles. Send us $1.00 with your order. We will save you $25.00. Address,

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GUARANTEED ...FOR 20 YEARS...

A $5.00 SHAVING SET FOR ONLY $1.49.

TEN MILLION MEN WILL SAVE $250,000,000.



The average man saves about **twenty-five dollars a year** by shaving himself and by having a good outfit, you can take comfort enough and save dollars enough to carry you over many rough places in life. We have tried to get up a practical shaving outfit for many years, but the expense of fitting out a suitable case of bang-up **A No. one** tools has been so great that not until a visit to Norway and Sweden revealed the fact that **Swedish Razors** were now the best in the world and the makers were anxious to prove it to the American people could we do so. Thus we **bargained** for a large lot of the best quality at very low figures. By getting the goods from different countries and buying in large lots, we have made up a case of great value at very small cost. These outfits come packed in cases eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of **1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized Handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic**—making a grand $5.00 combination, all packed in a compact case ready for shipment. We estimated that nearly every man in the country out of necessity shaves himself at some time or other during each month and one long wait in a barber shop sometimes costs more than this whole outfit is valued at. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use at all events and we have thus got it together at a low cost so as to be able to offer **the best** articles at the lowest cost. **Every woman** should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman, and **you can get one free as follows:** Send a club of six yearly subscribers to **Illustrated Family Herald**, at 25c each and we will send an outfit all charges paid, or send $1.49 in cash and we deliver it free—extending your subscription one year.

Address ILLUSTRATED FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Mary W. Early,	$3.00
George H. Jordan,	2.50
Constance Lessing,	2.00
Felix Probandt,	1.50
Ruby Kyle Beall,	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

November is with us again, and with our first letter a "glance is backward cast" into the Novembers that lie behind us, and have become history. Meteoric showers are common in this month, but the one here described was so far ahead of any other that it will be many a long year before it loses its fame.

"Perhaps some of my readers may have heard, through tradition or through their grandparents, of the great meteoric shower of November, 1833. But as there are few persons now living who were eye witnesses of this grand phenomenon, I will here subjoin a description of it, taken from an old record in my possession, written by an old inhabitant of Lynchburg, Virginia.

"'Those who did not witness the magnificent spectacle of the falling meteors,' says the writer, 'are apt to underrate the event, but its grandeur could not have been surpassed. Imagine a heavy snow storm, with this difference, that the flakes seemed to be of fire. I shall never forget the awful splendor of the scene. Aroused from a profound sleep by the sound of many footsteps, the hum of voices and distant cries, mingled with agonized appeals for mercy, in that awful time when the stars of heaven had apparently fallen and the great and terrible day of the Lord had come. The greatest ter-



LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA.

ror and excitement prevailed at a bridge on the river where were moored about fifty bateaux manned by brave, hardy mountaineers who would not have quailed before an army, but who now fell prostrate with superstitious terror, their loud cries and prayers being echoed back from the cliffs opposite Lynchburg. The fiery meteors, mirrored in the river, assumed to their excited imagination, the form of swords, reaping hooks and scythes, and they were filled with terror, believing the day of judgment to be at hand. A well-known tobacconist in Lynchburg who was in pecuniary straits at the time told me that he was greatly shocked at first when he thought the Judgment Day had come, but became more reconciled when he reflected that he need give himself no further concern about his notes in bank. It was an inexpressible relief to me, early next morning, when I heard my mother call the dining-room servant and send him to do our marketing. I took this as an indication that the world was not coming to an end, immediately.'

"The above narrative shows us how little scientific knowledge was possessed by the generality of people, in those days, since even intelligent and fairly well educated persons were unable to account for the phenomenon on scientific principles. Nowadays any intelligent school boy would be less staggered by this phenomenon than were the men and women at that day."

MARY W. EARLY, Wingina, Va.

Here is a letter from a San Antonio cousin admonishing us to pay more attention than we do to the beauties which lie spread around us in our own country before we rush off to foreign countries for sight seeing. His advice is certainly well worth following. He says:

"It is often said that Americans know more of the wonders, scenery and industries of foreign lands, generally, than they do of their own, and that they marvel more over, take greater interest in and spend more money on the former than they do on the latter.

"In our broad expanse of territory we have so-called deserts which, were it not for railroads that traverse them, would to some extent rival Sahara. Mineral springs abound in many sections of our country, Texas being full of them. The waters of these springs vary in temperature from hot to cold, and contain a variety of mineral constituents, including iron and sulphur. Their medicinal virtues are great, rivalling if not excelling, those of Europe and other portions of the world.

"As for Artesian wells, they are also common here. A natatorium in the very heart of the business portion of this city is supplied by one of these, and a stone's throw away another furnishes part of the water supply for this city of sixty thousand inhabitants. Both of these are within a few feet of the banks of the San Antonio river. Private institutions like Santa Rosa Hospital, St. Joseph's Orphanage for boys and St. Louis College have their own water supply of Artesian wells, and elsewhere gardens and nurseries are made to blossom like an eternal summer time by this priceless gift which comes gushing and sparkling from the bosom of mother earth.

"As for natural scenery, what is there grander or more awe inspiring than our own Rocky, Adirondack, Alleghany and other mountains? Consider the infinite grandeur of the Yellowstone region, the Grand Canyon of the Pecos in Texas, or the Yosemite Valley.

"What could be more picturesque than the sylvan banks of our own San Antonio river, which winds its serpentine course for miles through the city of the Alamo.

"It is not enough to heed the injunction 'Know thyself.' It should be supplemented with 'know thy country.'"

FELIX PROBANDT, San Antonio, Texas.

A new correspondent from southern Alabama sends us a very interesting letter on truck farming in that region. I wish others of our southern and western cousins would send us letters on kindred subjects.

"Truck farming in the South is an industry which has assumed large proportions in the last few years. The opening up of new railroads, the fast freight accommodations afforded and the cheapening of rates, has made it possible for the grower of early vegetables in the South to put them in the Northern markets at a time of the year when prices rule the highest.

"In southern Alabama, which has been my home for the past eight years, the pine belt extends inland about one hundred miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Wherever the timber has been removed and the land is nearly level and convenient to some shipping point are the places selected by the truck farmer. All kinds of vegetables grow readily, but the crops that receive the most attention are cabbage, string beans, cucumbers, melons and Irish potatoes. The soil most sought for is a sandy loam with a clay subsoil. The plowing is done in December and January. By the middle of January cabbage plants are put out, having been raised in a cold frame and protected from the frost. From the first to the fifteenth of February Irish potatoes are



ALABAMA CORN FIELD.

planted, and during the month of March cucumbers, beans and melons. About the first of May cabbage can be shipped and the other vegetables follow soon after. The railroads run fast freight trains starting from Mobile and taking on cars at different points. In twenty-four hours they arrive in St. Louis and a few hours later in Chicago. The rates on produce are about thirty-five cents per hundred weight. The goods are consigned to commission merchants who usually charge ten per cent. on sales. The colored people are depended upon for help, and there is no trouble in getting men at seventy-five cents a day, and women at fifty cents, to work in the field, boarding themselves. Fertilizers have to be used on these lands and make the largest item of expense. Cotton seed meal, kainit and acid phosphate are bought and mixed in varying proportions for different crops. Cotton seed is a product of Alabama. Kainit is used for the potash it contains and is brought from the salt mines in Germany, and phosphate is produced in Florida and South Carolina. It costs about ten dollars an acre to fertilize cucumbers and melons, and from thirty to forty dollars per acre for cabbage. After the first crop is shipped, corn is planted or a crop of hay raised on the ground without any additional fertilizers.

"This business of truck farming has its drawbacks as well as other kinds of farming. An untimely frost may do much damage, or a dry time just as crops are maturing. We have a very healthful climate in the midst of the pine woods. The water is pure and good. The expenses of living are much less than in the North. Fuel is abundant and cheap, and we require very little in this climate even in the winter time. Fruit of all kinds is plentiful. We have hot days in the summer, but the nights are always cool, as we get the breeze from the Gulf. To the health seeker, if not to the wealth seeker, this is an ideal country."

GEORGE H. JORDAN, Citronelle, Ala.

The following letter is from a cousin who takes us with her on a voyage to Gibraltar and the Mediterranean sea. It should have appeared in the issue of COMFORT for September as a prize letter, but was accidentally omitted in the "make-up" of the paper. I hope it will be none the less welcome now. Many good things, you know, are improved by keeping.

"I have been much interested in the letters which Aunt Minerva opens for us to read, and wonder if some of you would not enjoy a glimpse of an old city and fort as I have recently seen them. Our trip was by the German Mediterranean service, and it proved to be a delightful voyage.

"Our first glimpse of land was the Azores Islands. They are very beautiful in the distance, rising out of the clouds. We also had sight of Cape St. Vincent as we passed, but it was when we neared Gibraltar, and the great Rock, mighty in its vastness, stood out as a fortress, that enthusiasm reached the highest point among the passengers. We were three hours in Gibraltar, giving us sufficient time to see the grand old place. It is, indeed, a sight to be remembered, with its narrow, crooked streets, the places where people live hewn out of solid rock, the beautiful flowers growing everywhere, the funny little carriages drawn by stout mules, and the old Moors in their flowing robes; and above all, around all, through all, the English soldiers. It seems not only that the Rock is a fortress, but that the whole town is a mass of forts. The inside seems one continual ascent, with oval places about the size of small rooms beautifully smoothed and containing large guns. The Rock itself, viewed from the sea, is never the same. To-day, with the bright sun upon it, it is brilliant, rosy, and lovely; to-morrow it may be dark and gloomy, and frown fiercely upon you.

"The old Moorish markets, or the quaint bazars of the Turks and Arabs, the smart English shops and Spanish cafes, are well worth seeing. The Park of Gibraltar is called the Alameda, and here is almost a wilderness of flowers; they climb, with their wealth of verdure and bright blossoms, over the grim cannon and fortress; hedge-rows of geraniums and heliotrope, higher than a man's head, nod in the soft sea-breeze, and well-kept walks, fringed by stately trees, thread in and out. Across the sea can be seen the Mount of Apes, in Africa; and across the bay nestles Algecirals, one of the white, Spanish villages.

"Returning to the ship we were soon in the Mediterranean Sea, journeying on, through the blue water upon whose shores once lived Homer, Horace, Virgil and Dante." B. T. O.

"It is not generally known that there is a notable cave in the South besides "Mammoth" at Louisville, Alabama, however, has an underground Mecca



VIEW FROM BANGOR CAVE.

which is situated thirty-three miles from Birmingham on the Southern Railroad and three miles north of that popular old camping ground for society folks, Blount Springs.

"The cave is in the midst of a beautiful park, and, (whisper it softly) it is said, was once presided over by a well-known boy with a magic lamp, and the Witch of Endor. The custodian of recent years is a mysterious creature who for five cents dispenses brilliant fortunes by means of coffee grains. I may be a traitor when I tell you, in *strictest confidence*, that there have been various grounds for complaint by her patrons, as the wrong fellow *always* gets the right girl, and the boy's predictions are seldom verified. The church is quite an imposing edifice, as the illustration which accompanies this attests, and it may be seen on emerging from the cave, from the summit of a hill to the eastward. The hotel and county store may also be seen in the picture. The drawing was made after a light snow storm. But to return to the cave—it is really beautiful even by the dim illumination of candle light, and it is quite a perilous ascent to the top. The growth of fungus moss lends a disagreeable odor to the retreat. There are some glittering stalactites crusting the most remote portions of the cave. Altogether the experience of a visit to Bangor cave is unique and pleasurable to the lover of subterranean wonders."

RUBY KYLE BEALL, Birmingham, Ala.

From Alabama to Vermont is hardly more of a step, physically, than the mental stride from truck farming to the wonders of Ausable Chasm, but I think my readers will enjoy making the change with me.

"I visited, not long since, my native State of Vermont, and while there renewed my acquaintance with many beautiful places which were still fresh in my mind, though I had lived twelve years in the far west, and had seen many wonderful and beautiful bits of scenery during my absence. I had looked forward with great eagerness to a visit to Ausable Chasm, being anxious to see if it still seemed as weird and beautiful as when I had first been there, and I must say I was not at all disappointed when I was again in the cool, deep gorges of this most wonderful natural chasm.

"Though this striking bit of nature is not in Vermont, it is only across Lake Champlain and very easy of access. The steamer is taken at Burlington for Port Kent, on the west side of the Lake. This is a most delightful sail of an hour, and Port Kent is an interesting old village, well worth an hour's stroll. There are many old mansions, one called The Castle being the most noted; it is very old and built of stone, being copied from a French chateau; it was a famous house in its time, and saw many grand scenes. Here lived Elkanah Watson, a man of considerable note in the early history of the country. A picture of historic interest in the house is a portrait of said Watson painted by Copley. When King George recognized the independence of the United States Elkanah Watson stood on the steps of the throne; he went at once to Copley and had his portrait painted with the design of the American Flag in his hand. This was the first time the Stars and Stripes were transferred to canvas.

"At Port Kent, in the old days, a Tally-ho coach was taken for the three mile drive over a plank road to the Chasm. Now the railroad is run and one has to go by train, which is to be deplored, as one of the loveliest drives imaginable is thus done away with. Arrived at the Chasm the visitor roams



SHOOTING THE RAPIDS.

at will through the caves, corridors and natural rooms, gaining access to same from long flights of steps leading, apparently, into the bowels of the earth. A ride over the rapids in a large, flat-bottomed boat that will hold twenty people, is one of the features of the trip through the Chasm, and the novel sensation of shooting the rapids and floating over unknown depths, is something long to be remembered; the boatman is trustworthy and understands the narrow cuts, and so guides the boat in safety, between the steep walls one hundred and fifty feet high, out into the open river and into the sunshine of the outer world."

CONSTANCE LESSING, Los Angeles, Cal.

Many thanks to my niece, Isabel Hissard, of Coxsackie, N. Y., for her personal letter to me. I think you must be mistaken, Isabel, in thinking that I did not notice the one you sent me before. Your name is in my book, and I think I must have acknowledged your letter. However, write to me again soon, and give me a chance to become better acquainted with you.

Now we have a letter from a cousin in Cleveland, Ohio, describing the process of making an iron column.

"The moulder first digs out a hole in the sand as long as the pattern, which may be either for a square, or a round column. For the square column the pattern is made in one piece; for the round one, which is the one I propose to describe, it is made in two pieces. Next he puts down in the hole a plank two inches thick, five inches wide, and as long as the pattern. On top of this plank he throws about five inches of sand, and with one-half of the pattern he makes an impression in this; after that he takes the pattern out and puts on what he calls facing sand, about half an inch thick, replaces the pattern, and with a sledge hammer he raps it down solid. Then he rams it with sand up even with the joint at its top, and makes a parting. After that he puts on the top half of the pattern, or cope, as it is called, next to the flask. This is rammed up and lifted off. Then the cope is rolled over and the pattern is drawn out of the sand, which is finished by polishing with blacking or plumbago. The bottom half is done in the same way. Gates through which to pour in the metal, are cut at one end of the cope, and at the other end is a riser to show when the mould is full. Then chaplets are driven into the bottom plank for rests for the core which makes the column hollow, and side chaplets are put in. The same is done with the cope in order that it may stand perfectly even and true. The cope is then put on; then weights, which are about three times as heavy as the column to be made, are put on top of the mould and chaplets are applied to make everything secure. The mould is then ready to be filled. The gas that accumulates in the copes escapes at both ends of the mould and it is lighted as it comes out and burned off. This ends the work on an iron column."

J. M. BROOKS, Cleveland, Ohio.

And now I will leave you to the delights of an old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinner and festival, hoping that such pleasures are in store for every one of my readers. We have much to be thankful for this year. In addition to the many private blessings that come to us all at every moment of our lives, we have this year the added blessing of peace in our land—of the early and happy ending of the war with Spain into which we were forced last spring. That it is so, and that this issue has been brought about with so little loss of life upon our side is a cause of great rejoicing for us; but while we lift our hearts to our Heavenly Father in thankfulness for his watchful care and love let us not forget those among us whose dear ones have given their lives for their country, and who, on this day of feasting and merriment, are gazing with brimming eyes on the vacant seat of husband, father or brother. May God comfort them.

AUNT MINERVA.

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SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

The Reading Room of the Congressional Library.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE Congressional Library Building has been so widely and exhaustively written upon during the past two or three years that it would almost seem to be "carrying coals to Newcastle" to offer another paper on the subject; and yet the writer feels that a few words on the library in its new home, and especially on the Reading-room and its workings may not be unacceptable to the readers of COMFORT.

The reading-room of the Congressional Library, which is octagonal in shape, occupies the center of the building, directly beneath the great dome, and is open to the top of the lantern. Upon the ceiling of the lantern, which forms the apex of the domed ceiling of the room, is an exquisite picture painted by Edwin H. Blashfield, representing, together with the series of pictures in the collar of the dome below, "The Evolution of Civilization." It is not the purpose of this article to describe at length the decorations of the room, so the extreme beauty of the design and coloring of these paintings must be left to the reader's imagination.

The room is lighted, almost entirely, by eight semi-circular windows, measuring, each one, thirty-two feet across the base. These are high up in the wall, directly beneath the convexity of the dome, and furnish a most agreeable light to the reader, as they are not so trying to the eyes as though on a level with them, nor so dazzling as are skylights. These windows are double, and are made of softly-stained and crackled glass which subdues the entering light and shuts out the direct sunbeams. In the middle of each window, near the top, is the great seal of the United States, four feet high, and made of beautifully colored glass; while surmounting the seal is the American eagle, whose outstretched wings measure eight feet from tip to tip. To the right and left, following the curve of the window, are the seals of the States and Territories, three on a side, or six in each window; so that forty-eight States and Territories, excluding only Alaska and Indian Territory, are represented.

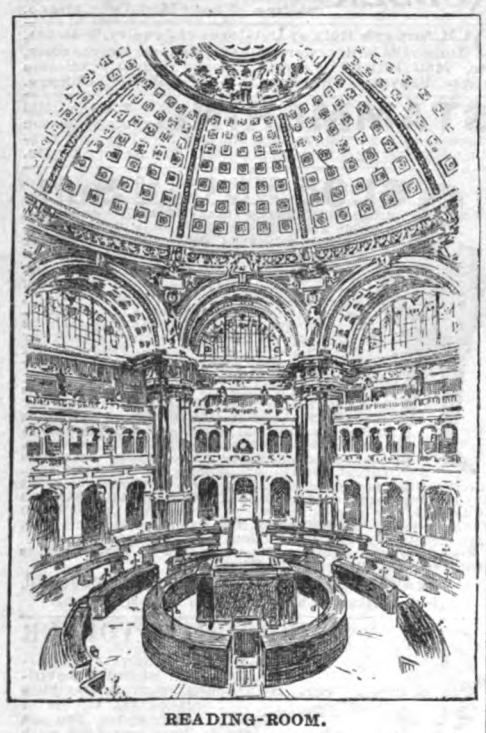
Besides these large windows are four small ones in the four walls of the octagon which face the courts, and, above all, the eight windows in the lantern.

In the evening the light, which is furnished entirely by electric lamps, is quite as perfect in its way as in the daytime. On the floor the reading desks are equioped with sixty-eight bronze standards, each holding three lamps, making two hundred and four in all. Add to these the seventy-six lamps in use in the distributing desk and the bookstacks, and we have two hundred and eighty on the floor alone. About the walls and cornices are thirteen hundred and fifty more lamps, making a brilliant illumination when the lights are turned on.

Beneath the large windows is the circular gallery, extending entirely around the rotunda, from which sightseers may look down—and up—into the reading-room. Beneath this still, are two tiers of bookstacks where are arranged the most necessary and most frequently called-for standard works on all important topics.

The floor of the reading-room is fitted up entirely in mahogany—heavy, dark, rich and solid. The reading desks are arranged in three circles, surrounding the distributing desk as a center. They are supported on iron standards with gratings admitting warm or fresh air for heating or ventilation. The inmost row is a combination of reading-tables, settees and standing writing-desks, with shelves for reference-books, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, directories, atlases, etc. The outer rows are double-faced, and are arranged exclusively for persons reading and studying. The desks are capable of seating two hundred and forty-six readers, and, including the alcoves which are adapted to the needs of special students, the total number of readers that can be accommodated here at one time is two hundred and eighty-nine.

The distributing desk is surrounded by a circular counter where books are delivered and received, and which contains cases for the card



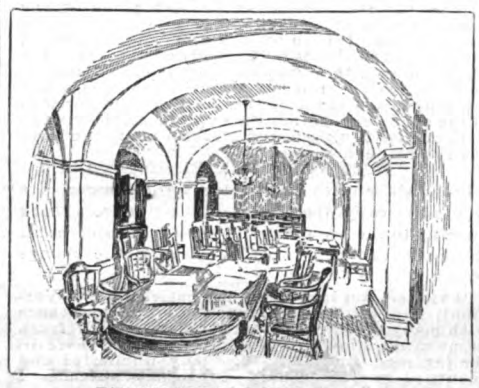
READING-ROOM.

catalogue of the Library which is used only by the attendants. Besides the distributing desk there is in this enclosure the desk of the superintendent, raised high on a dais in the center, and thus having an oversight of the whole room. There is also here a small elevator for bringing books from the basement, the terminus of the system of the book-carrying apparatus connecting the reading-room and the stacks, a stairway leading to the basement, and a row of pneumatic tubes for the transmission of messages.

Books are only issued to readers for use in the room. Formerly, according to a rule adopted in 1815, the librarian was allowed to loan books to any person not a Member of Congress upon a deposit of five dollars, the same to be returned upon the return of the books in good condition; but, as this conflicted with the Revised Statutes, the plan was discontinued in 1895, and the deposits returned. Upon entering the room the reader fills out a printed slip for each book which he wishes to consult, signs it, adds the number of the desk which he will occupy while reading, hands it to one of the librarians, and seats himself in his chosen desk to wait. The books are soon brought to him, and he reads and writes in quiet and luxurious ease as long as he wishes; then returns the books at the central desk and receives again his filled out and self-signed blank as a receipt or voucher that he has returned the books.

No noise is allowed in the room and no conversation. "SILENCE" is printed in large golden letters on the doors of the room, on the circular counter, and in the visitors' gallery. No sight-seers are allowed on the floor of the reading-room; a watchman is stationed at the door to whom every one is obliged to state that he wishes to read before being allowed to enter the room. This watchman also keeps a record of the number of readers entering in the course of each day.

Among the readers are to be observed many students and others who are diligently occupied in jotting down the facts gleaned from the books they read. Here is an old, white-haired man, whose four-score years have nearly rounded out his life in this world. He has a tower of books beside him, and is utterly absorbed in his work of writing a history of "Ye Olden Times." A pretty girl at the desk across the way has one huge volume from which she is gathering facts on art, ancient and modern. Yonder is a newspaper correspondent who writes fast and furiously for a time, and then lolls back with one leg over the arm of his chair, and his eyes fixed rapturously on Blashfield's beautiful painting in the ceiling. This is called "The Human Understanding," and represents an exquisitely lovely female figure with lifted veil and eyes gazing wistfully and searchingly above her. Our weary N. C. evidently hopes to gain from her an inspiration for his next paragraph. Here, at three different desks, are as many gray-haired, but middle-aged ladies, with books and notebooks, "writ-



READING-ROOM FOR BLIND.

ing for the press;" and at the counter are two pretty young girls who each want "a nice story to read."

Below, in the basement, in a plain, unadorned apartment, is the reading-room for the blind. Although subdued and quiet in its coloring the room is exceedingly artistic and picturesque by reason of the labyrinth of narrow arches and columns which support its roof. The room is filled with tables and chairs for the use of the blind readers, and perhaps three hundred of the immense volumes printed in raised type used by the blind are here. These are arranged on low bookshelves at the side of the room. Little Women, Ruskin's Sesame and Lilies, Pilgrim's Progress, some of Dickens' works, volumes of poetry, works on mathematics and the sciences, and many other equally useful and valuable books are on the shelves. About fifty new books have been purchased, and will be added to this collection at once. A most gentle and pleasing young lady is in attendance to give any assistance in her power to the helpless frequenters of the room. Unfortunately, many of those who would gladly avail themselves of the privileges here offered them are too poor to pay the car fares to and from the Library, especially as they must always have a companion to lead and care for them. Some of the ladies of Washington have taken this matter up, and are now making systematic search for such needy ones and providing them, free of expense, with escorts and transportation to and from the Library.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THERE comes to this department, frequently, inquiries regarding articles already described and illustrated, or articles that some one wants to have described; these inquiries are answered by personal letters, when stamps are enclosed for reply,—but, there are some this month that can be answered through these columns, and then all the readers will get the benefit of them.

To Miss B. Wheeler of Fort Jones, California, in reply to her inquiry about the Ascot tie,—it takes a yard and a quarter of ribbon to go around the neck and tie in what is called the four-in-hand, with one end reaching to the belt. The Ascot is the same as the four-in-hand except that the latter is made up with a lining, and the former with a loose end of the silk only,— somewhat broader than the four-in-hand—but the knot is tied in the same way. We will endeavor to give some illustrations in the near future in this department, that will show you just how to tie an Ascot.

To Mrs. D. M. Norwood of Seymour, Texas, would say that the patterns of Battenburg work used in the September issue of COMFORT are quite common, and that any large fancy shop or dry goods shop has patterns similar to these on hand and would be glad to tell a purchaser how much material would be needed. If you live away from the city or a large town and so cannot make your own selection, write to the nearest town where such things are kept and ask them to send you the material for a Battenburg centerpiece, and any enterprising firm will gladly do so.

We are greatly obliged to Mrs. Whigham of Savannah, Ga., for her suggestion regarding embroidery on gingham. This is something new to us, but if we come across any of it will gladly describe and illustrate same.

We give some more letters from the alphabet for the benefit of those of our readers who care to copy them for use in marking linen. Cut them out and keep them always on hand, with a piece of impression paper, as they are very useful.

Next month we hope to be able to make some suggestions for Christmas gifts; there seem to be very few really new ideas on the market, especially as early in the season as the present writing, for which reason we are obliged to postpone giving anything in this line until our next issue, which we hope will not be too late for you to avail yourselves of any which may strike your fancy. While waiting for these suggestions, why not make up some cold cream to be presented to intimate friends and relatives; it is a most acceptable present and highly appreciated by the recipients, who are sure of its being made of only wholesome ingredients and so is perfectly harmless. The little glass jars with silver tops cost only fifteen cents each, or two for twenty-five cents, in city stores, and if one bought six or more there would probably be a reduction in the price—and what a neat little present the jar filled with the cream would be; of course toilet articles of this nature are generally only exchanged in a family and not sent outside to friends, unless very intimate ones. To make a good cream, shred half an ounce of white wax and one ounce spermacetti very fine and mix in a bowl placed in a larger dish of boiling water. When well blended, add a gill of almond oil and stir well; then add one and one-half ounces glycerine and twelve drops simple tincture of benzoin, and continue to stir until the cream is nearly cold, when pour into the jars. If glycerine is irritating to the skin use rosewater in its place.

Here is a recipe for cleansing gloves which is vouched for by a certain society belle, and is so simple it is well worth trying: Take a jar or tin box with a tight-fitting cover and put into the bottom of it a lump of ammonia; the jar must be deep enough to allow of the suspension of the gloves from the cover without their touching the ammonia; leave them in the jar five days, and every spot and stain will have vanished; several pairs may go through the process at the same time, if the jar is a large one.

Many people have a rooted antipathy to rubbers; it must be admitted that they are uncomfortable, and if one wears boots with very heavy soles they may be dispensed with if one will follow these directions for waterproofing the soles of the boots: Mix together equal quantities of mutton suet and beeswax, place over a fire until soft and then rub the stitching at the edges of the soles with the preparation.

When furnishing a bedroom, bear in mind not only the general appearance of the room and convenience to yourself of the arrangement of the furniture, but more particularly the placing of your bed; the bed should by rights be placed out from every wall, so that there may be a free circulation of air around all sides; if room for this arrangement cannot be spared, place only the head of the bed against the wall, and for goodness' sake don't have any draperies above it, as these same draperies, while very entrancing to look at, are anything but healthful, as the sleeper breathes and rebreathes the air contained and held in the folds, and so brings upon herself untold headaches which she is at a loss to account for; above all things avoid a draped bedstead which is placed in a *corner*, as the corners are the very hardest parts of the room to thoroughly ventilate.

I wonder how many of our readers ever heard of clothes balls? They are simply a mixture formed into the shape of a ball, and to be used in removing spots and stains from clothing. If you care to make some to test their value, use the following recipe: Dry some fuller's earth in the oven until it forms a crumbling powder; moisten it with lemon juice, add a small amount of pearl ash, and knead the whole into a stiff paste. Form into small balls and harden in air. When a spot is to be removed moisten it with water and rub it with one of the balls; rinse thoroughly with clear water and the stain will disappear.

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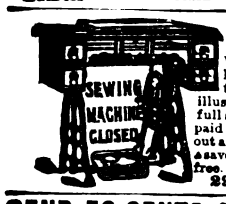
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THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

READERS of COMFORT will remember that in one of our former articles on the war with Spain we recorded how the French ambassador met the Secretary of State in Washington and signed the famous peace protocol. The protocol is the preliminary treaty by which the war ended and will be amplified and signed by the Peace Commissioners now meeting in Paris, and representing both countries. This treaty of peace will then become binding if ratified by the governing powers of both nations. By which it will be seen that the end may be several months away.

At the time the peace protocol was signed at Washington, the representatives of a paper published in New York, seeing the great historic value that such a picture would have in the future, had a photograph of the group taken. In it appear President McKinley, Secretary of State Day, the French Ambassador and a number of the other prominent people connected with the State and War Departments. It is probable that in the near future some artist will place this scene on canvas and that it will adorn the walls of the National Capitol in company with many other historical paintings.

The fact that President McKinley and Secretary Day both appear in this picture suggests something which was brought about by this meeting. After the signatures had been attached to the document that closed the war the President made a brief impromptu speech, which was eloquently responded to by the French Ambassador.

Judge Day says that, by one of those mental phenomena for which we are not responsible, while M. Cambon was speaking, his mind went back thirty years to the time that he first met President McKinley. Both had recently come to Canton, O., to practice law and were employed on opposite sides of a case that involved $20. It was tried before a country Justice of Peace in a blacksmith shop down in the southeast corner of Stark county, and to save expenses the opposing counsel drove there in the same vehicle. Thirty years later they stood together as the chief figures in those great diplomatic negotiations which closed the most successful war in history, one a President and the other the Secretary of State of the giant Republic of the West.

The Peace Commission is now meeting in Paris and considering the definite articles of Peace, which must be based on the terms of the protocol already signed.

These meetings are necessarily secret and much of the newspaper report is manufactured by the writers. It is not probable that the public will know exactly what the terms of the final treaty are until such time as the two countries are ready to give them out. Meantime, newspaper reports of wranglings and disagreements should be looked upon with distrust, as much of such matter must be guesswork. The great questions which will divide this commission are those affecting the disposition of the Philippine islands; the future government of Cuba and as to whether Spain shall be relieved of the so-called Cuban debt; and the disposition of public and church property in the former Spanish colonies.

The prompt evacuation of Porto Rico and the raising of the United States flag there on October 18th, together with the partial evacuation of Cuba gives proof that Spain realizes that it is hopeless to try to place herself in position to strongly oppose our country. That the Spanish commissioners will oppose and delay negotiations is to be expected, as this is the only way to insure any settlement at all in their favor; but the prompt and incisive style of American diplomacy as shown at the meetings assures us that a prompt decision is to be reached, or Spain will find a naval demonstration of American warships off her coast cities. That our great navy has been held in such a position that a demonstration of this character can be quickly accomplished if necessary, is apparent to every person familiar with naval strategy.

It is to be hoped that such a demonstration will not be necessary; but should the Dons delay the negotiations beyond endurance, in the belief that all the questions may be submitted to European arbitration, such a display of force may be necessary. America believes she won the fight; and that she alone must settle the terms of peace with her late adversary.

In this connection it is well to once more look at the friendly attitude of Great Britain. We all realize that only the position of that country prevented a combined attack of the European nations upon us when the Spanish War first broke out. The people of our country now have learned how valuable that friendship is to us. Besides this all thinking people now see that our aims, ideas and hopes are in the same line; and that our sublime belief of the liberty of the individual citizen has no part in the creed of other nations. With the continuance of the favor of Great Britain we may rest assured that no combination of nations will dare to intervene to wrest from us the legitimate fruits of victory, no matter what the inner desire may be.

For several weeks the country has been flooded with reports of mismanagement in the Army. That there was incompetency cannot be doubted. The yellow journals of the country realizing that the President has been supported by the people throughout dared not attack him but have endeavored to make a scapegoat of Secretary Alger. They called for an investigation which has been granted. It appears at the present time that the situation has been much overdrawn; and that sad as the conditions have been, they are no worse than is ordinarily expected in war. Our people are people of peace and naturally the horrors of war made a deep impression on their minds and rumors flew thick and fast. It becomes evident that it is much easier to suspect and allege mismanagement than to prove it. Whatever may be the truth COMFORT hopes that a full and thorough investigation may prove it. That the yellow journals were not sincere in their request for an investigation is proven by their attacks on the commission as soon as it was formed; and now that the testimony is not as damaging as was expected, they sneer at the whole idea.

This Commission appointed by the President consists of nine members. It has been evident from the high standing of the people selected, as well as those to whom positions were tendered and who declined, that the President has been influenced entirely by a sincere desire to have the truth told impartially and without fear; and notwithstanding vicious attacks of enemies, the people of this country without regard to party affiliations, will recognize this fact.

During his recent trip through the West the enthusiasm which greeted him at every step proved most conclusively how loyally the people at large stand behind him.

The month closes with the peace negotiations well under way and a surer feeling that the final settlement will be on whatever lines may be laid down by our American Commissioners now in Paris

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Our readers will be glad to know that the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, has proved a certain cure for all diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or by disordered action of the Kidneys or urinary organs. It is a wonderful discovery, with a record of 1200 hospital cures in 30 days. It acts directly upon the blood and kidneys, and is a true specific just as quinine is in malaria. Rev. W. B. Moore, D. D., of Washington, testifies in the *New York Christian Witness* that Alkavis completely cured him of Rheumatism and Kidney and Bladder disease of many years' standing. Many ladies also testify to its curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood. So far the Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 409 Fourth Avenue, New York, are the only importers of this new remedy, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of COMFORT who is a Sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, difficult or too frequent passing water, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative powers

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PROJECTILES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE vagaries as well as the useful workings of inventive minds, are nowhere better illustrated than in the Division of the U. S. Patent Office that examines and passes on the applications relating to Ordnance and Projectiles.

The average Nimrod would find here subject-matter both instructive and amusing.

Broadly classified, anything that may be thrown from a gun is a projectile, but for convenience in the Patent Office, the title of shells is given to all those projectiles which contain a bursting charge, and as opposed thereto, the title of projectiles to all the remaining devices that are thrown from a gun. It is with this latter class that this article deals.

Before the days of patents, and from the earliest days of the use of gunpowder, the question of form and material of the projectiles used has always been a vital one, and it seems that stones, fragments of metal, bolts, in fact any and everything that could be rammed down a gun bore have been used. To this day, the walls of some Chinese cities have piles of stone balls for ammunition for their old style bronze Spanish guns.

It was very soon observed that a maximum effect was obtained by making the projectiles fit the bore, so that a minimum of gas would escape, and accordingly stones were chipped and metal balls were cast to the desired shape.

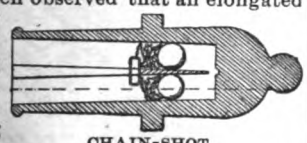
With the progress in the art of gunnery, the spirit of humanity (?) seems to have also grown, and it is interesting to note that in A. D., 1718, Mr. James Puckle, realizing the fact that the "horrid Turk" was not on the same plane as his Christian brother, was granted a British patent for a machine gun to fire "square bullets against Turks, and round bullets against Christians!"

That the same gentleman's religious tolerance was on a parity with his humanity, is shown by the quaint inscription on the face of his patent:—

Defending *King George* your *Country* and *Lawes*
Is Defending *Yourself* and *Protestant Cause*.

Just when chain-shot were invented is not known, though W. Clark Russell, in one of his charming sea tales, with true British insularity and self-righteousness, gives his Yankee cousins the credit therefor; anyhow, in 1851 a U. S. patent was granted for such a device.

It had long been observed that an elongated projectile, owing to its greater weight, would have greater striking efficiency, but the difficulty of giving it rotation around its major axis seemed to be insuperable from A. D. 1600 down, and from 1836 to about 1850 numerous and costly experiments were made, which finally resulted in the modern systems of rifling which consist, broadly, of projections on the projectiles to engage grooves in the gun bore; projections on the arm bore to engage corresponding grooves in the projectiles; making the gun bore and projectiles of the same shape, or better than all, and our own system, a soft band on the projectile of slightly greater diameter than the bore of the gun, or else of the same diameter and adapted to be forced outward into engagement with the gun grooves by the gas of the propelling charge.



CHAIN-SHOT.

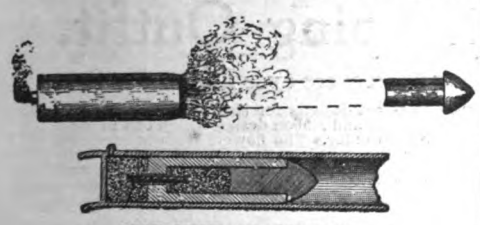
About the year 1600, small-arm gun-barrels were rifled, though owing to the fact that elongated projectiles could not be adapted thereto, and when fired from smooth bore guns, they would "tremble," that is rotate end over end, or else adopt some erratic path, round projectiles only were used. To increase their efficiency numerous inventions were devised, whereby the escape of gas was prevented and the projectiles were kept from "balloting," that is, according as the projectile touched last on its left or right side as it left the bore, would it deviate to the right or left, and thereby destroy all accuracy as to aim.

These devices consisted of patches of paper, cloth or leather; separable bands, made of wood or other light material that dropped off and lagged behind owing to the resistance of the air.

As a means to cause rotation and avoid the difficulties set forth, one inventor in 1859 filled tangential pockets in the periphery of his projectile with powder, the gas from which, when ignited, impinged on the air.

Another bright mind put wheels on his projectile and thereby overcame the barrel resistance.

To cause his projectile to soar, another genius



COMPOUND PROJECTILE.

attached a lot of folding blades which flew out by centrifugal force, while better still was a "corner-shooter" consisting of a deflective curved plate at the head and rear of the projectile. This is of the nature of boomerangs, which by the way, are subjects of patents.

Another kindly disposed creature in 1857 proposed to fill a projectile with red-hot metal, and carefully explained how the "enemy" would be thereby discomfited.

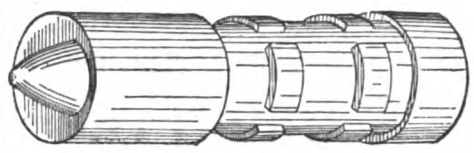
As a theoretically successful departure in the art of gunnery, one genius in 1862 capped a long slender wooden projectile with metal, the major diameter of the whole being smaller than the bore; his theory being that the gas would push or uphold the projectile in the center of the gun, at the point of least resistance, thereby totally avoiding friction between the gunwalls and the projectile. It is quite needless to say that his device was never adopted.

To increase the range, numerous expedients have been devised, as projectiles in projectiles, each with a propelling charge of its own.

To avoid the use of powder or other explosive, another original mind had a chamber in the projectile itself filled with gas under high pressure. In use the ordinary gun hammer penetrates and shatters the rear wall of the chamber, and the rebound of the escaping gas forces out the projectile.

Since the advent of armor, to increase the penetrative power of the projectiles has been the great desideratum, and various inventions have been brought to light, such as a projecting and shouldered shot, the recess being filled with tallow to present a smooth surface to the air.

Yet another, a German inventor, realizing the difficulty of uniting weight and length, without breadth necessary to fit the gun-bore, at-

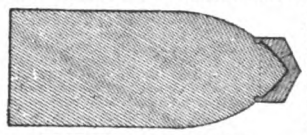


ARMOR PUNCHER.

taches a long sharp bolt-like projectile through the center of an ordinary shell, the two parting company on impact.

With the same object in view, as far back as 1866, a genius evolved the cone-ended hollow projectile which presents less front surface to the air and bores or cuts into the object struck much the same as our grandmothers used to cut out the succulent doughnut. The moral effect of such a projectile could be very demoralizing, as its demoniacal shriek would tend to unnerve even a veteran. Many a boy in blue will remember the Whah is yow! Whah is yow! of the enemy's shells as he personally seemed to be the object singled out.

The latest and greatest improvement to date, however, is the Johnson armor-piercing projectile, consisting of the hard-pointed steel body, a soft steel cup to fit over the point, and a layer of graphite between the two. The action is exactly the same as when that great prestidigitator Hermann drives a pin through a coin, by simply supporting the pin in a cork, through which the pin is first thrust, the cork and soft steel cap, each giving the necessary side support. Of course, if the point of the projectile is not broken off, the full effect of the graphite lubricant is realized.



PIERCES ALL ARMOR.

Recently, 10-inch projectiles of this class were fired through 14 inches of steel armor without affecting the projectile body in the least.

The introduction of the high pressure nitro-powders has necessitated the covering of lead projectiles with a steel jacket, in order to prevent "upsetting" while in the gun bore, as such a terrific shock is apt to do. These projectiles, owing to their small caliber, (.236 in the Navy rifle) and high velocity will pass through the fleshy part of a man of low nervous organization, without "stopping" him, as in a charge. To remedy this, the present plan is to cut longitudinal slots in the jacket walls, thereby weakening the same, and the effect of which is terrible, as on impact, even with the flesh of a man, the projectile "mushrooms," or flattens out over considerable space, and literally tears a person to pieces. A man struck by such a bullet never needs the service of a surgeon!

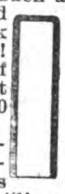


When in 1864 the Geneva Convention placed its interdict on all projectiles that would cause unnecessary pain, such as square or irregular shapes, poisoned projectiles, or projectiles of small caliber, adapted to explode in the body, a great step was taken toward humane war, but the mushrooming projectiles above described, are an hundred-fold more terrible in action, and it would seem that another Convention will be in order to consider with such devices, torpedoes, torpedo boats, balloon warfare, and the modern high-explosive filled shell!



While the range and velocity of modern projectiles has increased almost beyond belief, the size of projectiles for modern heavy guns has correspondingly increased.

When Baron Munchausen told of the Turkish defenses on the Bosphorus consisting of guns throwing 1000 pound stone balls, such a tale was thought worthy to be classed with that of the severed horse that drank a river of water to satisfy his thirst! What would the worthy Baron think of a projectile for our new 16-inch gun, that weighs over a ton, and requires 600 pounds of powder to project it?



In addition to the ordinary uses, projectiles are used to afford a means of communication between grounded vessels and the shore, technically known as "line-throwers."

An analagous use, as a life saver, as well as a ship protector, is that of the oil-distributing shells, used in similar cases, or thrown ahead of the vessel for the purpose of quieting the waves.

In the old days when hand fights occurred on the sea, when one vessel boarded another, a grappling device was thrown to entangle the enemy's rigging, and at the same time afford a means to draw the vessels together.

On the advent of torpedoes, a similar grapple was thrown ahead, to rake the torpedoes from their moorings.

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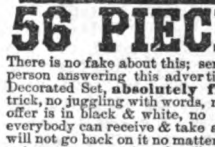
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$2.00



Number 79

Number 80

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Should I be divorced? Should I have children? Should I travel?
Should I take a long or short journey?
In what direction should I go? When should I go?
In what part of the earth will I be most fortunate?
What are my lucky and unlucky days?
Should I remove? If so, how far?
Should I take a partner in my business?
What business or calling am I best adapted for?
Will I win or lose in lawsuits? In gambling?
Will I have more friends than enemies and who are they?
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At what age or in what years will I be most lucky?
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If you want valuable astrological information with a pen picture of your future wife, husband or sweetheart, **send a lock of your hair,** give date of birth, and full name and address. **Enclose 12 cents in stamps. You will be astonished at the true revelations** that I will make. Address,
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Every family in America is ready to buy "The light that sells on sight"—the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK.

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Address COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.

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WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.



Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to COMFORT, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us $1.00, with the names of four subscribers to COMFORT, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us $1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address
Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

PHILANDA'S GOAT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WAS the only thing poor Philanda ever could claim as her very own—this meek, soft-eyed creature, with the silky milk-white fleece of the Angora goat. To Philanda, however, its chief beauty was that it was hers—all hers.

There was a large flock of these goats belonging to the Seminole camp, or more particularly to Aunt Susannah (Philanda's grandmother), which roamed over the chaparral, as the bush covered Texas plains are called—between the garrison where Marian Hart, the major's little daughter, lived and the huts of the Seminoles. But Marian coveted this one particular goat of Philanda's. As for the goat, he would gain nothing by this exchange of mistresses, for Marian simply wanted his skin.

In former times these negroes were the slaves of the Seminole Indians. Since their freedom they have wandered from place to place, a portion of them settling in the southwest part of Texas. The men are employed by the government as scouts, and their families are allowed to remain on the reservation near the garrison.

Such had been Philanda's home until at the age of twelve she had gone to the major's house as servant. Poor, ignorant, untrained little Philanda! You can imagine what a life she led Mrs. Hart, her mistress, and also, though no one seemed to think much of this, what a life Mrs. Hart led Philanda.

It was a delicious day in December and Philanda's "afternoon out" so she joyfully turned her back on civilization and started for the camp. As Marian caught sight of her she decided that there could be no better time than the present to wheedle Philanda into selling her the goat, for she wanted the skin for a birthday gift to her mother and the day was now coming on apace. She joined Philanda, saying that she would walk half way out to the camp with her.

By and by Marian's quick eye discovered Aunt Susannah's goats going down to the creek to drink. She begged Philanda to follow them and point out her especial property.

"Yaa's dats my goat," said Philanda at length. "My fader he done giv it ter me de las time he was down ter der camp. He sez ter me sez he, 'Hi yes Philanda, I'se gwine ter sprize yer now. I'se gwine for ter gib yer a present.'

"'Dat'll be a mighty big sprize sho enuff,' sez I an' I gits up an' go hide down by de crick cause I b'lieve wot he wuz gwine ter gib me wus jest a big lickin'. But laws I'm bleezed ter say dat he tole de troof fur oncet. So dat goat Miss Mayan, do it herds in wid my gramther's goats b'longs ter me. I kin sell it but I ain't gwine ter sell it. I'se gwine ter keep it fer allays so's ter own sumpin'."

"But Philanda don't you see if I give you twenty-five cents for his skin you'll own that instead," said Marian, blandly.

"Sho now Miss Mayan how long d' yer spose I'se gwine ter own twenty-five cents?"

"You'll buy something down to the store with it, say a ring. I saw some for twenty-five cents—lovely ones with diamonds in them."



"MINE AM DE BIGGEST GOAT."

But Philanda shook her head solemnly. Rings were well enough in their way—very well indeed, but looked at as property they were not comparable to goats.

"Yaa's dats my goat an' he's de bigges'," she said. "I kin sell him but I aint a-gwine ter sell him. No Miss Mayan taint no use coaxin'."

Marian looked down rather crossly at the lazy outstretched figure of poor Philanda who had flung herself on the ground and was gazing with a contented sense of proprietorship at the coveted goat.

"You are a disobliging selfish g..l then!" she cried. "Just to think how good mamma has been to you and how much she has taught you and you just as aggravating all the time as you could be. I should think you would be *glad* to let me have the skin for her."

"De goat am mine an' I aint a-gwine fur ter sell him nohow," murmured Philanda pleasantly. "It's de bigges' ob de hull flock."

Exasperated and disappointed Marian no longer tried to control herself.

"I hope mamma will send you back to your grandmother and I believe she will. She says you don't even try to improve and her patience is worn out. To think of your eating up the chicken pie she made for papa and then of the dishes you break. There isn't a day Philanda that you don't break one."

"Mo dan dat," interrupted Philanda, cheerfully, "mo dan *one*, cos dere wuz de sugar bowl an' one tumbler terday, an' I disremember de partikilers ob de day befo'."

"And when she scolds you," went on Marian, severely. "You just stand and laugh. No wonder she is discouraged. She says you don't care anything for her and I see it's true."

"Did she say dat? laws! it aint true, but I cert'ny did eat up de pie she done made fur de major. I wuz mighty hungry dat time or I jes wouldn't have done it an' anyhow Miss Mayan nobuddy would eber a eaten dat pie dat would a wanted it mo 'n I did. Yaas I do break de dishes—heaps an' heaps ob dishes but it's dere fault more 'n mine, dere aint no sense in dere hoppin and skippin bout' de way dey do. Mebbe I larf w'en yer mudder scolds me but I cert'ny feel powerful bad inside only if yer see I'm bleeged ter look pleasant. Dat las you see do, ef yer'll scuse me Miss Mayan, aint de troof fur I jes tink a heap ob yer mudder."

Marian however, now convinced that Philanda was not to be coaxed into selling her the goat, was already hurrying toward the garrison. She was horrified at the ingratitude of the little Seminole and not for a moment realized that her own part in the affair was not altogether creditable, yet she was trying to drive a sharp bargain with Philanda whose debt of gratitude after all, was not to her but to her mother.

Philanda gazed after her with reproachful eyes. Those manifold sins Marian charged her with had already slipped off her easy conscience but she was not ungenerous nor unloving and a sense of Mrs. Hart's displeasure troubled her. Every now and then during the pleasant free hours of the afternoon she muttered to herself.

"'Twan't de troof no how, fur I tink a heap ob her mudder."

Late in the afternoon she sauntered on to her grandmother's jacal. The old negress was sitting outside her door under the shelter of the queer rough porch or piazza, which is built as a sort of extension to each hut.

Aunt Susannah was a person of distinction. To begin with she was older than any one in the camp and she carried herself with a dignity that become her years. She had enjoyed the advantage of travel, once having been to Indian Territory to see her daughter and years ago she had been taken as nurse to Charleston by one of the army ladies. This last fact added a great deal to her sense of her own importance. When she caught sight of her grandchild she stood up brandishing a stick, crying:

"Yer lazy triflin' nigger, yer. Whar've yer ben all dis arternoon. I'se jest ben a-waitin fer yer I'se gwine ter teech yer ter eat up w'ite folks chicken pie an' den larf at 'em. I'se gwine ter gib yer a lickin' now as is wuth wiles."

"Laws now, gram'ther yer powerful smart ter fin' out 'bout dat ar' chicken pie," said Philanda skipping about to avoid the blows. "Pears if Miss Mayan run clar up hyar ter tell yer 'bout it. Ow! ow! gram'ther I ain't gwine ter eat no mo chicken pie fore her ar' sher."

"Miss Mayan? no sar, but Mis' Hart herself drove up here dis mawning fur ter tell me she wuzn't a gwine ter keep yer no longer cause her temper wuz a-gittin' ruz up orfle a tryin' to teech yer ter be a spectable nigger.

"She sez 'twant no kinder use yer wuz dat ongrateful an' didn't 'pear ter keer nuffin 't all fur her."

"Dat ain't de troof cos I do keer fur her," said Philanda, solemnly. "I don keer nuffin 't all fur Miss Mayan but I keer a heaps an a heaps fur her mudder." Presently she broke out again. "Gramther Miss Mayan wants de skin ob my goat. She sez in Marsachusetts whar she kums fum dey puts 'em on de floor in de houses. Whar's Marsachusetts, gramther?"

Aunt Susannah lifted her shoulders and spread out her skinny, old hands.

"I nebber heerd on it, chile, an' I spect it ain't no account no how. I disremember eber hearin' 'bout no sech a place as Marsachusetts. De Major kum fum dar I reckon, cos Mis' Hart she kum fum South Carliny. Laws now I know whar 'tis. I heerd 'bout it w'en I wuz down in Charleston. It's dat place dey wuz a buildin' up on de udder side ob de crick. How much wuz Miss Mayan gwine ter gib yer fur de skin?"

"Twenty-nve cents," answered Philanda.

"Wal, 'taint nuff. Dat ar goat am de bigges' goat ob de hull flock. Yer jes tell her yer ain't a gwine ter sell de skin fur no sech a price as dat ar."

"I ain't gwine ter sell it fur no price 'tall," said Philanda, firmly. "I know jes wot I'm gwine ter do."

December was passing away without a touch of winter weather. The days were balmy and beautiful and Christmas found the roses still blooming in the little gardens in front of the officers' quarters. Mrs. Hart's birthday came early in January and long before that time Marian's gift was bought and daintily tied up in white paper with pink ribbons. Instead of the goat skin she had been forced to content herself with a selection from the poor little stores in the town for which fact she could not forgive Philanda.

Philanda's month was now nearly out and the time was drawing nigh when she must go back to her grandmother at the camp. With all her strength she had striven to amend—to be useful, to be forgiven, and poor little soul, the effort had not been even suspected.

So the days passed till the birthday morning dawned. When Mrs. Hart opened her chamber door her eyes fell on the soft, glossy fur of an Angora goat. There was no card upon it but with a pleasant smile as if, nevertheless, she recognized the giver, she passed on. At Marian's door she stopped, smiled again and looked back at the skin, then, since it was early and not wishing to waken the family she crept softly from the main hall into the L.

The door of the cook's room was open—for the cook had already gone below—but a voice, soft and musical, issued thence. Then she saw the little black girl on her knees, her eyes closed tight and rocking herself to and fro in the earnestness of her petition.

"Oh, Lord," pleaded Philanda, "make me clean an' smart an' handy like de wite folks. Make de dishes so dey ain't gwine ter drap ebery time I go fur ter tech 'em. An' jes lemme not be hungry w'en I'm lef alone wid de pies an' de cake. Oh, Lord, make Mis' Hart b'lieve dat I keer a heep fur her cos it's de sollum troof. An' oh, Lord, in partikerler make me forgit dat I own nuffin 'tall on dis yarth, not eben a goat no mo'. Amen."

With tears in her eyes Mrs. Hart passed silently on, grateful for this glimpse into Philanda's heart, and with the determination of giving the little Seminole a further trial.

An Orchestra in Your Home.

These words in connection with the advertisement that appears in our present issue from that well-known and enterprising firm, Messrs. Cornish & Company, of Washington, New Jersey, have doubtless attracted the attention of our readers. The perfection to which Messrs. Cornish & Company have brought their Celebrated American Pianos and Organs certainly justify them in making the assertion that they can furnish what is practically a full Parlor Orchestra.

Another very striking statement made by Messrs. Cornish & Company in their advertisements, catalogues and circulars is to the effect that they will allow *one year's trial of an Organ or Piano*—that is to say if any instrument purchased from them is not satisfactory after twelve months trial it can be returned to them and they will not only refund the purchase money and the freight charges but also six per cent. interest from date of purchase.

Messrs. Cornish & Company have long enjoyed a splendid reputation and are more strongly endearing themselves to the public at large by their unique method of business, selling as they do direct from the factory at home at wholesale cost.

They send a large descriptive catalogue of their instruments free to all who may write for them. Readers interested in music will do well to write to them at once.

WANTED RELIABLE MEN

We want at once reliable men in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; **$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES** not to exceed $2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars.

THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

A Ring Free

Absolutely free, for selling **ONE** box of **Bicycle Pepsin Gum,** 20 five-cent packages amounting to $1.

NO MONEY REQUIRED!

Send your name and address at once and on receipt of same we will send you one box of **Bicycle Pepsin Gum,** express charges prepaid. You can sell it in an hour among your friends and neighbors and send the proceeds — $1.00 — to us. Immediately upon receipt of which we will forward the ring you select, charges paid. Could anything be easier? You don't invest a cent and have no trouble in selling the gum. Send to-day — don't wait until they are all gone.





BICYCLE GUM CO.,
47 Dearborn St., Chicago.

$2.75 BOX RAIN COAT



A Regular $5.00 WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH for $2.75

Send no Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your **HEIGHT and WEIGHT,** state number of inches around body at **Breast** taken over vest under coat close up under arms, and we will send you this coat by express **C. O. D., subject to examination;** examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00, pay the express agent our special offer price, $2.75, and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is latest 1899 style, made from heavy waterproof, tan color, genuine Davis Covert Cloth; extra long, double breasted, Sager velvet collar, fancy plaid lining, waterproof sewed, strapped and cemented seams, suitable for either rain or overcoat, and guaranteed greatest value ever offered by us or any other house. For Free Cloth Samples of Men's Mackintoshes up to $5.00, and Made-to-Measure Suits and Overcoats at from $5.00 to $10.00, write for Free Book No. 80 B. Address,

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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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We give a Beautiful Gold Plated Watch, fitted with a genuine American movement, for selling only 20 packages of our Wonderful New Perfume at 10 cents per package. We give a GENUINE Zambezee Diamond Ring for selling only 10 packages. These rings cannot be told from $100.00 Natural Diamond Rings and can easily be traded for other valuable property. SEND NO MONEY, only name and address and we will mail you the perfume. Then when you sell the perfume and send us the money we will send premium at once. STANDARD PERFUME HOUSE 168 Elm St. NEW YORK CITY



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Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this NEW IMPROVED ROYAL GRAND 1899 MODEL HIGH-GRADE ORGAN, by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if you find it exactly as represented, one of the grandest instruments you ever saw, equal to any organ you can buy at home for $100.00 to $150.00, better tone, better finish, more durable and handsomer than any organ you ever saw advertised by any organ maker, pay your freight agent OUR SPECIAL 90-DAY OFFER PRICE, $46.85, less the $1.00, or $45.85 and freight charges.

THIS, OUR ROYAL GRAND ORGAN, is one of the largest, most elaborate, most durable, sweetest-toned instruments ever made, equal to organs that retail at $100.00 to $200.00. From the illustration shown, which is engraved direct from a photograph, you can form some idea of its beautiful appearance. Made from solid quarter-sawed oak, antique finish, or black walnut, as desired; elaborately carved and ornamented, hand rubbed, hand polished and decorated, latest 1899 truss frame, stands 7 feet high, 4 feet long and 2 feet wide and weighs 400 pounds. MADE BY THE BEST ORGAN MAKER IN AMERICA, has the genuine Skinner bellows of silk and rubber cloth, automatic air valve, Staylor pedal stops, Hazelton action—the finest known—simply super-excellent, producing perfectly the pipe organ and orchestral effects, perfect action, strong, difficult to displace. All metal parts are of finest tempered Straydon coppered and silvered steel wire.

THE ROYAL GRAND contains 5 octaves, 11 stops, 2 octave couplers, 2 knee swells, 4 sets of reeds as follows: 1 set round pipe-like Principal reeds of 24 notes, 1 set exquisitely pure, sweet Melodia reeds of 37 notes, 1 set rich, mellow, smooth Diapason reeds of 24 notes, 1 set charmingly brilliant Celeste reeds of 37 notes; 122 in all.

OUR ROYAL GRAND ORGAN possesses the good qualities of every high-grade organ made, with the defects of none. The highest grade work possible to produce. WE FURNISH FREE with every Royal Grand Organ a handsome organ stool, and the best organ instruction book published.

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OUR RELIABILITY IS ESTABLISHED. If you have not dealt with us, ask your neighbor about us; write the publisher of this paper, or the Metropolitan National Bank, National Bank of the Republic or Bank of Commerce, Chicago, or German Exchange Bank, New York, or any railroad or express company in Chicago. We have a capital of over $450,000.00, occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago and employ over 800 people in our own building.

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The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

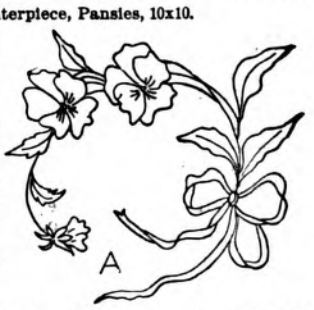
More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Dolly.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Dolly, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Dolly, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 20 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

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FREE BOOK TO WEAK MEN.



Early indiscretions and excesses sooner or later rob a man of vigor and result in a train of symptoms such as Drains, Impotency, Lame Back, Nervousness, Varicocele, etc. The patient oftentimes, however, looks well and strong, his friends saying his complaint is imaginary. They are wrong. They are unjust. I have treated weak men, young and old, single and married, for 30 years and know what mental torture some suffer. Reader, I wish you would give me a fair chance. I wish you would consider seriously what I am about to say. In the first place

I NEVER USE DRUGS.

I couldn't give you medicines for weakness and be honest, because they only stimulate. They don't cure. It seems so strange that people will hesitate to take advantage of a great natural remedy like electricity—a remedy recognized and recommended by scientists the world over. I use it and cure 95 per cent. I am the inventor of the Dr. Sanden Electric Belt, the great weak man's home self-treatment, with which during the last year, 1897, I cured over 5,000.

It gives a current of electricity instantly felt by wearer, and can be made mild or strong by using regulator attachment. Put it on when you go to bed and wear it over night. Keep this up a while and live to bless the day you read this advertisement.

Write for my little book, "Three Classes of Men," sent in plain sealed envelope, free. It explains all. No charge for services. All correspondence answered by me personally. Write to-day.

Dr. C. T. SANDEN, 826 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

THE LIQUEFACTION OF AIR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HAD any one gifted with second-sight foretold, fifty years ago, the wonderful discoveries soon to be made in the world of science—the marvelous strides in the way of improvements which would go on in the civilized world during the next fifty years—he would have been regarded either as demented or a brazen liar. The steam engine and the telegraph took the world by surprise; the telephone caused it to fairly gasp in amazement; but when Edison followed this by his many inventions in electric lighting, heating and power, people received these wonders, as they came into existence from his fertile brain, as marvels almost too great for comprehension.

Two years ago, when word came from Germany that a certain professor there had succeeded in passing light through opaque bodies, such as leather, wood or flesh, people were slow to believe in the truth of the report. The marvel was too great for credence. To-day the Roentgen Ray is an established fact, and the fluoroscope is a necessary part of every surgeon's outfit.

Now we are called upon to accept and believe in another newly-developed wonder—the liquefaction of air. It must not be supposed, however, that because this process has only lately been brought before the public that it is altogether a new thing. As was the case with the X ray, the liquefaction of air has long been a partially solved problem. For at least thirty years scientific men have thought and made experiments upon this subject. Pictet, Wroblenski, Olzewski, Dewar, Linde, have all won renown by their studies and experiments in converting various gases into liquids, and several of them have succeeded in producing liquid air; but in so small quantities and at so great expense as to be valueless to commerce. It is said that in these preliminary efforts liquid air cost as much as $2,500 for a quantity ranging from a cupful to a quart.

Mr. Chas. E. Trippler of New York has lately, after several years of experimental work, developed a process for the economical liquidation of air in large quantities and at a comparatively small cost. Mr. Trippler's process is based upon the well-known fact that if a gas be compressed and then allowed suddenly to expand, it absorbs the heat of the surrounding medium, thereby producing intense cold. In this method air is subjected to a pressure of two thousand pounds to the square inch, passed through a coil and permitted to issue from a needle-point orifice. There it expands and cools. This cold stream of air circulates round a second coil through which compressed air is flowing, reducing the temperature of the latter. The air issuing from this second coil has its temperature lowered to a point due to its own expansion plus the cold imparted from the first expanded and extremely cold air from the expansion. The second coil is used similarly to cool a third coil, the air in which is brought down to a temperature of 312 degrees Farenheit and below, at which it condenses and flows from the end of the coil in a liquid stream.

This product, which is called liquid or fluid air, is opalescent, and has a milky appearance, from the presence of some carbonic acid gas which is in solid particles, and which can be very easily filtered out. The liquid air has a density little less than that of water—0.93. It is very difficult to keep it from boiling, as its boiling point is at the very low temperature of 310 degrees Farenheit. It bubbles constantly, and will only gradually resolve itself again into air when exposed to ordinary temperatures.

Liquid air solves the problem of saving ninety per cent. of power lost in converting heat into steam and electricity. It can run the most ponderous machinery, and it can fire the greatest projectiles of war. It can not only light and heat, but it can produce the most extreme cold. A single gallon of it will perform wonders in an ordinary city house. A tumblerful dipped out and placed in an ice chest will keep its temperature at zero for twenty-four hours. A quart of it, placed in a ventilating apparatus, will keep the atmosphere at sixty degrees during the hottest summer day. The remainder of the gallon, put into the proper motor, with an electric dynamo attachment, will generate heat enough to do all the cooking, run the electric lights, warm the water for the bath, and, in the winter, heat the entire house by electric radiators. Its application as a medicine shows wonderful possibilities. It is the most powerful tonic ever applied to the human system. It can be used for many purposes in manufactures and the trades. Indeed, there are so many uses to which it can be put that scientists hardly know where its usefulness will end if it can be produced at a low cost in commercial quantities.

Unburstable Water Pipes.



WHEN water in pipes turn to ice, the expansion in this change from a fluid to a solid, amounts to an increase of about one-tenth of the volume of water. Thus, if full pipes contain ten gallons of water near its freezing point, and it freezes, the pipes are suddenly called upon to contain eleven gallons of ice, one more than their capacity. It is not a matter of wonder, therefore, that the house water pipes sometimes burst in zero weather. Pipes for the water service are now made of fluted iron (corrugated longitudinally); so that when ice forms in it the fluted iron is pressed out to a direct circular line, giving a greatly increased aperture, and saving the pipe unruptured through successive freezes and perhaps all the years of a lifetime.

A Balloon Spider.



IN the island of Java there is a species of spider whose web is so strong that it requires a knife to cut it. There is another species of spider in Texas which weaves a web in the form of a balloon, four feet long and two feet wide, and fastens it to a tree by a single thread. When everything is all ready she marches her family onto it, cuts the thread and they go sailing away to some other neighborhood.

OPIUM HABIT AND **MORPHINE** Cured at home. Trial Free. No pain. Comp. Oxygen Ass'n, Fort Wayne, Ind.



740 Silk Fringe Cards, Love, Transparent, Escort & Acquaintance Cards, LAUGHING CAMERA, Prize Puzzles, New Games, Magical Illusions &c. Finest Sample Book of Visiting and Hidden Name **CARDS** Biggest list of Premiums All for 2c. stamp. OHIO CARD CO., Cadiz, Ohio.

FREE WATCH

Don't send a cent! a rare chance. For lady or gent, a heavy plated dust-proof case, American movement watch with a guarantee to equal for time any **solid gold watch** made if you sell only 12 boxes of Vegetable Pills at 25 cts. a box. Write to-day & we send Pills by mail at once, when sold send us the money & we send you the watch same day money is received. **American Medicine Co. Dept. Q, Sta. O, N.Y.**



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Watches, Rings, Tea and Dinner Sets, Bicycles, Silver Ware, Pocket Knives, Lamps, Cameras & other premiums given FREE for selling our WONDERFUL FIBRE WICKS at 5c. each to friends and neighbors. They produce light equal to gas, need no trimming and do not discolor chimney. Anyone can sell enough in a few hours. We give a SOLID GOLD finished ring for selling 20 or a beautiful WATCH fitted with a genuine American movement, warranted a good time keeper for selling 40. SEND NO MONEY only name and address & we will mail a box with full particulars & illustrated circulars, postpaid, at our risk, you sell them and send us the money and we will forward premium selected. FIBRE WICK CO., Dept. C. A, 253 Broadway, New York.



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4 BUGGY WHEELS $6.50

HIGH GRADE, SARVEN'S PATENT, tired and banded, height 3ft. 4 in., 4 ft. 8 in. or 4 ft. Spokes 1 1-16 or 1 1-8 in. For any other sizes send for catalogue. Cut this ad out and send to us with ONE DOLLAR, state size wheel wanted, and we will send them by freight C.O.D. EXAMINE THEM at your freight depot and then pay freight agent balance, $5.50, and freight charges.

WE SELL Buggy Tops at **$6.95**, Wagon Umbrellas, **$1.50**, Ironed Buggy Poles, painted, **$3.25**, Ironed Buggy Shafts, painted, **$2.00**, Ironed Neck yokes, each **35c.**, Ironed Wagon Singletrees, **17c., 19c.** and **27.**, Ironed Wagon Eveners, each, **42c.**, Trimmed Buggy Neck yokes, **35c.**, Top Buggies, **$23.95** and up. Send for Free Catalogue.

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We have several kinds of work to give out, **some of which requires no experience whatever.** If you need employment, or wish to devote your time to something pleasant and profitable, **write us at once. You can earn $9 to $18 a week working for us privately at your home.** If you can't work all day for us, you can earn **$5 or $6** a week by working an hour or two of an evening. This is a legitimate offer and a splendid opportunity. Enclose stamp with your application and we will send you (**free of charge**) printed instructions that will explain our different lines of work and the price we pay for each, etc. **A word to the wise is sufficient. Don't engage in any work until you hear from us.** We send work to all parts of the United States and Canada. Address with stamp.

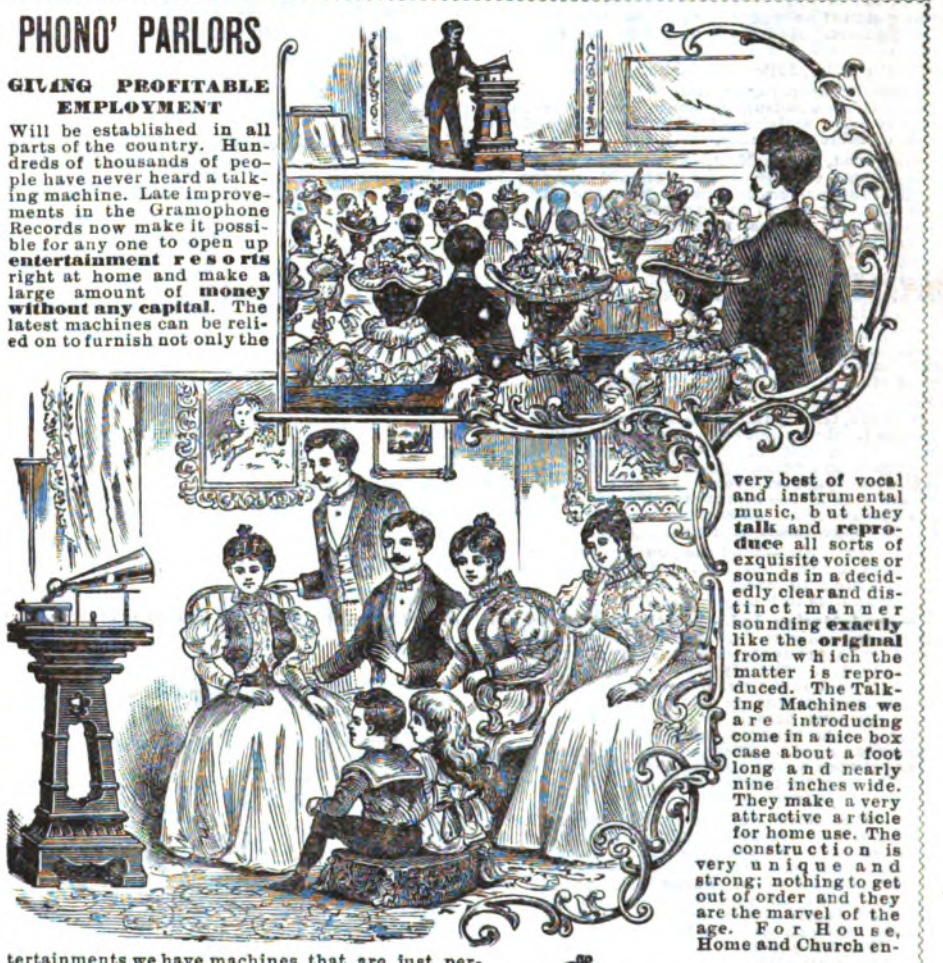
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Will be established in all parts of the country. Hundreds of thousands of people have never heard a talking machine. Late improvements in the Gramophone Records now make it possible for any one to open up **entertainment resorts** right at home and make a large amount of **money without any capital.** The latest machines can be relied on to furnish not only the



very best of vocal and instrumental music, but they **talk** and **reproduce** all sorts of exquisite voices or sounds in a decidedly clear and distinct manner sounding **exactly** like the **original** from which the matter is reproduced. The Talking Machines we are introducing come in a nice box case about a foot long and nearly nine inches wide. They make a very attractive article for home use. The construction is very unique and strong; nothing to get out of order and they are the marvel of the age. For House, Home and Church entertainments we have machines that are just perfect in the required volumes of sound given out that make them marvelous amusement makers, and melody producers. We want to establish proper Parlor, Store and Hall and Street amusement centers in every part of the country and require at once **one thousand persons** in different parts of the United States to either devote part or all of their time to looking after the business or furnish space in their homes in which to display and show up these marvelous machines. Remember you do not have to invest **one cent.** Simply say you are prepared to co-operate with us and devote part or all of your time to displaying these wonderful phonograms to your friends and neighbors, provided it is proved beyond a doubt to be a money-making profitable employment for you. One thousand of these new machines will be ready to ship, all charges paid, during the next three months. Write at once if you are willing to have one sent to you. This new business will be adapted to all persons from sixteen to sixty years of age and competent persons earn from **Twenty-five to Two Hundred Dollars Per Month** according to location.



THE G. O. MACHINE CO., Box 1256, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Here is a Thanksgiving welcome to you all, my dears, and may each of you have a hundred more. I fancy not many of you will, but it would be pleasant to feel that we were to have a hundred years of youth and hope, wouldn't it? The long winter evenings are coming and it behooves all of you to be thinking of how you may best improve the flying moments. Let us see what there is in your letters touching upon this subject.

The first one I open is from Ethel B. Lea, Tiskilwa, Ills., who, after speaking her mind about silly girls and the "beauty" questions they ask, wants to know if it is better to sleep with the head elevated or level. Level is very good; an elevation of an inch or two is not bad. Propped up as some people sleep is bad, though most of the people, who have passed their three score and ten, sleep that way.

Frankie and Lizzie, Cowan, Tenn.—Girls of sixteen should not "accept gentlemen's company." An engaged girl of any age may accept the attention of other men as long as her *fiance* does not object. But she usually does not care to. No, don't speak to soldiers or any other men without proper introduction.

Mai. M., Lang, Kans.—A nice present for a young man is a cane, a scarf pin, some silver trinket for his desk or pocket. The kind of a young man would determine. (2) Don't say "gentleman friends," because it is not the thing among those who are in authority. That is reason enough. (3) Do not flirt with the young man you are trying to get rid of. Accept the attentions of other men to his exclusion is a better way. Some men, though, cannot be driven off with a club. Send him this notice marked.

M. W., Wallaceburg, Ark.—A young lady may go buggy riding in the country with a young man. (2) The man must write first. (3) Yes, go to church with the young man alone. (4) Certainly if she loves the man and he loves her and tells her so, she must tell him. (5) Be very careful in your choice of a man that your parents object to.

Cornelia and Edith, Warren, Ark.—Girls of sixteen should not take nine mile surrey rides with young men at night unless they have a chaperon.

Millie Trent, Donaldsonville, La.—How can you possibly ask a young man to call on you when you do not have a speaking acquaintance with him?

Ethel and Irene, Henryville, Ind.—The hair is blond. (2) At nearly any drugstore you can get an almanac with a floral dictionary in it.

Too Shy, Winnipeg, Man.—A girl of nineteen should wait till she is twenty-one before she marries. If the man insists on your marrying now, you will have a great deal more trouble with him before one of you dies. I don't much like your young man if he wants you to be more forward than you are. Modesty is one of woman's sweetest traits.

Cousin Lillie, Joliet, Ills.—The hair is baby blond.

Mattie Bronser, Dover, Ind.—The very prettiest, inexpensive wedding presents are those in the various little articles of silver for the toilet, or desk, or table, or pocket.

Goldenrod, Praha, N. D.—There is no known reason why you or any woman should change her mind in the matter of loving. Men likewise. The best thing for you to do is to wait for a year to be sure that you do not love him. Mistakes sometimes follow haste, either in marrying or not marrying.

Bessie Babb, Cedar Grove, Tenn.—Thank you for the pleasant letter. As the dear old lady says, the world is in too great a hurry.

Josephine, Booneville, N. C.—A man of thirty-six is just the right age for a girl of twenty-four and you are silly to think of throwing him over because other girls say he is old. Marry him and be happy.

Atalanta, Glenlynn, Miss.—Dumas is considered standard. He is not "Unexceptionable" as you say. No mortal is. There are better books for girls than Dumas. (2) It is the proper thing to meet under your own roof. And tell him too that you are glad to see him there. That is hospitality. It is not under all circumstances correct for the lady to shake hands with strangers.

Bab, Duval, Fla.—Send the young soldier in Cuba a pretty match safe or a little silver pencil. Let it be something to carry in his pocket. The same answer applies to Popsy's question.

Rosebud, Marion, Ind.—Yes, true love is jealous, but not foolishly so. (2) A girl should never marry before she is twenty-one, and better, wait till she is twenty-five. (3) Only under extraordinary circumstances should a girl marry against her parents' wishes or in accordance with them. She should marry to suit herself or not marry as may be better. (4) An engagement should be short; that is less than a year. There ought to be at least seven years between a man and woman. (5) All days are alike for marrying except Sunday. The superstitions about days are foolish.

The Twins, North Judson, Ind.—Stamp collectors find the same pleasure in their collections that any other person does in any treasure he possesses. (2) The woman who marries because she loves the man stands a far better chance for happiness, rich or poor. Don't marry for money and happiness too. (3) It is not necessary for either to speak of starting, when an escort calls for the lady he is to take. The thing to do is to go. Would you expect to sit there all night waiting for each other to start?

Sorrowful, Morristown, Ind.—Two years is the proper time to wear mourning for father or mother. White may be worn after a year, or even earlier if the wearer is young. Second mourning follows the black. White and black is not exclusively for widows. (2) You should not ask a guest at your table to say grace unless you know he is accustomed to do so.

There, dears, all your questions are answered, and they are real natural girl questions which do me good to answer because they are so human and I like human people. May you have a fine turkey, each of you, at Thanksgiving and lots of other good things, and may you have very much besides to be thankful for. By, by, till the Chrfstmas month.

COUSIN MARION.

DETECTIVE. Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders; no experience necessary. For full particulars write American Detective Ass'n, Indianapolis, Ind.

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THIS CAPE is the very latest style for Fall and Winter, made of Black or Blue all-wool genuine Clayton Beaver Cloth, 28 inches long, very full sweep, 12-inch upper cape and large storm collar, beautifully edged with fine Black Baltic Seal Fur, trimmed with one row wide and two rows narrow Mohair braid. This garment is fine tailor-made throughout and equal to capes that sell at more than double our price. Write for our free Cloak Catalogue of everything in women's and children's wear. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO.** CHICAGO.
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WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



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THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

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$100 Cash, Bicycle, $25 Cash, Gold Watch, Sewing Machine, Silk Dresses, Silver Tea Sets,

and many others too numerous to mention. We wish to lead, and hence offer these valuable prizes to secure the best subscription list. In our subscription contest which closed June 30, Mrs. A. Packard, 517 N. 10th St., Saginaw, E. S., Mich., got $100; Mrs. Wm. Fenton, La Junta, Colo., got a Bicycle; J. E. Joncas, 71 Main St., Hartford, Conn., got Gold Watch; Miss Hattie Huguinn, Medford, Wis., got $12.50; Miss Bertha L. Sexaur, 1212 Scranton Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, got $12.50; P. Bray, Augusta, Ga., got Sewing Machine; 5 got Silk Dresses, 5 got Silver Tea Sets, 10 got Diamond Rings, 10 got Silver Water Pitchers, 22 got Silver Tea Pots, 30 got Silver Bonbon and set Spoons, 29 got Gold Rings, 30 got Silver Sugar Shell and Butter Knife, 40 got Silver Bonbon, 110 got Silver Orange Spoons—in fact, every one got a prize. The best, brightest and most zealous got the large prizes. Will you be one to try and **win the $100?** If so, answer to-day and be among the first to enter. The regular price of the paper is 50 cents, but if you answer our Dewey puzzle we will send it to you for half price, and if your answer be **correct you are sure of a prize by return mail.** If you are not satisfied money will be promptly returned. If you are now a subscriber your time will be extended. When contest closes names of winners of principal prizes will appear in the HOUSEHOLD GUEST. When answering be sure and say whether you are a subscriber now or not. Answer to-day. Address

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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



WINTER begins when the Sun touches his lowest point south of the Equator, which occurs this year at about two o'clock in the afternoon of the 21st day of December. At that moment of time the 14th degree of Taurus is on the eastern horizon and the 27th degree of Capricorn is culminating. The Moon is just above the horizon in the east; the Sun and Mercury are conjoined on the 9th cusp; Saturn is in the 8th; Herschel is conjoined with Venus in the 7th; Jupiter has set in the west and Mars is in the 4th, retrograde.

The New and Full Moon in December are eclipses. That of December 13, 1898, is a partial eclipse of the Sun and that of December 27, 1898, is a total eclipse of the Moon. The Sun is eclipsed in the 22nd degree of Sagittarius and the Moon is eclipsed in the 7th degree of Cancer.

The figures for the different phenomena do not show as favorably as could be wished. All point to increased mortality from heart, lung and liver diseases, and that of the last days of the year shows quite a degree of excitement in the land on account of increased prevalence of eruptive diseases among children. Particular vigilance is urged upon the sanitary authorities of our country, on this account, and also with reference to the health of the army. There are indications of some kind of an epidemic trouble among horses.

Mars retrograding in Leo in the 4th is indicative of strife and disorder involving the army; gives dry atmospheres and unusual heat for the season of the year, likely to give us a "green Christmas" and increase of feverish or eruptive diseases and many sudden deaths from heart disease, and unusual losses of property by fire and explosion.

Mars also points to some unusual excitement in France and Italy. The Church suffers some great loss, the clergy meets with opposition or loses some of the leading members. Mars stirs up animosities and gives violent disorder if not the sudden death of some illustrious persons in both France and Italy. The constituted authorities should be unusually alert against violence from anarchists or fanatics.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER, 1898.

DECEMBER 1—Thursday. This month begins with quite an unfortunate day. The patience is short and the combative principle in man is peculiarly active and violence and contention are likely; matters now begun prove disappointing and result either in failure or dissatisfaction; important matters are best postponed. If this be the anniversary of thy birthday let special vigilance be exercised as this time is approached and passed for the avoidance, so much as possible, of sudden evils and misfortunes. Persons so born or who were born about the 15th of January, 25th of May, 18th of July, or 26th of November, of past years, should particularly shun these days in the beginning of the winter months for making any important beginning in their lives and be particularly watchful not to give cause for rupture of present existing business relations; should keep out of the way of harm from explosions, fires, machinery and animals; should favor themselves as to digestion and be prudent in their daily ventures.

2—Friday. Watch well thine expenditures of this day, being sure that necessity rather than whim prompts disbursements; the afternoon is the better part of the day.

3—Saturday. Begin thine exertions of this day with its dawn and urge all general business vigorously, pushing sales to the utmost; the day is peculiarly fortunate for contracts concerning building or for hiring or purchasing houses or lands, also for dealings in agricultural products and implements, building materials, coal, or metal ores; have surgical operations performed, consult thy dentist; institute legal proceedings; buy machinery; employ mechanics; and deal in hardware, artistic goods, chemicals and with cutlers, tailors, and all workers in metal or glass; choose the day generally for making beginnings in these classes of undertakings.

4—Sunday. One of the best Sabbath days of the month, especially so for the good and prosperity of church matters and for religious and moral improvement.

5—Monday. A fair day for literary work not concerned with poetry or the fine arts; the day does not favor the light and elegant occupations nor should any matrimonial engagement be formed at this time; dealings in fancy or artistic goods are best deferred.

6—Tuesday. An evil day for making commencement of any important work, particularly if it concerns real estate or mining. It is not favorable as a birthday anniversary and all persons claiming it or who were born about the 5th of March, June, or September, of past years, should be careful of serious pecuniary losses or impairments of health for several weeks to come; to many of these is due the caution that they shall be so guarded in their acts and so cautious in their associations as not to debase themselves or their good name and honor among their fellow men; let all such be on the alert against deceit or being misled into holding evil communications; for there is extreme danger that many of them will in the passing weeks "dip" into lower planes and spheres and become possessed to the doings of acts that besmirch the mind or reflect discredit upon the reputation. Many ladies so born have anxiety or unhappiness through the male sex; broken engagements or estrangements in parental or conjugal relations are likely to be now found in the experience of many are among the common effects of these conditions and ladies above indicated. The male sex so born should be unusually careful in their business ventures and diligent and faithful in forwarding and protecting the interests of those for whom they are acting, and very cautious not to give cause for business ruptures; many annoying disappointments are threatened to them during the winter months and they should beware of making changes in their business in such months. It will be better to "bear with the ills they have than to fly to others they know not of."

7—Wednesday. A more favorable day generally, though preferences are urged for the elegant pursuits; conditions encourage special activity in dealings in fancy goods, jewelry, perfumes, silks, and all articles of beauty and adornment; literary matters are not favored and correspondence of consequence is best postponed for a day or two.

8—Thursday. One of the best days of the month; bargain for lands and houses; make contracts for their improvement and deal with aged persons, the agricultural classes, and mechanics; surgical operations and chemical experiments generally succeed; consult thy dentist; travel, and trade in cattle, machinery, hardware, and cutlery; buy goods for trade and seek money accommodations.

9—Friday. Push business vigorously on this day; seek money accommodations; buy goods to sell again and transact business with bankers, lawyers, judges, and public functionaries.

10—Saturday. An evil day; form no hasty conclusions in business; litigation and contention are likely to interfere seriously with the happy outcome of affairs of magnitude or importance now begun; be not rash in thought or act and scrutinize carefully all business enterprises now presenting themselves; the afternoon hours are the best, but otherwise more than the ordinary amount of precaution is urged; bridle thy temper, keep out of quarrels and contentions and look out for fires. REGULUS cannot too strongly impress upon the minds of all persons born about the 28th of January, or April; the 2nd day of August or November, or the 11th day of March, June, September or December, of past years, the necessity for extreme caution in all their ventures in these passing weeks; let all such avoid, as much as possible, the chances for fires and contentions, also all acts inducing hurts and inflammations; the conditions are peculiarly unfavorable for children having such birthdays, being highly conducive to eruptive and acute febrile diseases; special care should be had for the prevention of scarlet fever, measles, chicken pox, diphtheria and all others of the class of eruptive troubles for two or three months to come; such diseases should be promptly treated at their first appearance and they should be jealously watched as they are likely to be unusually severe; it is to be hoped that conditions shall not be permitted to produce disease of epidemic proportions.

11—Sunday. A favorable Sabbath day.

12—Monday. Give preference to the forenoon for urging thy several ventures, but the progress of matters will be seriously checked as the day advances and the afternoon should not be taken for inaugurating any new enterprise; be sure to avoid any transaction connected with houses or lands or with persons concerned in business of such character.

13—Tuesday. Partial Eclipse of the Sun in early morning. Make no beginning in any matter of magnitude.

14—Wednesday. Begin early and improve every moment of this day for engagements with persons in the intellectual and literary pursuits. Aspirants for literary honors should make principal efforts at this time and take important steps of all kinds looking to their advancement and profit. Make intellectual efforts of magnitude, concern thyself with matters of study and education, make contracts and travel.

15—Thursday. Be in no haste to begin thy labors of this day and give preferences as much as possible, to the artistic pursuits; deal in fancy wares and articles of apparel, masical goods, and jewelry.

16—Friday. The middle hours of the day call for patience and suggest a bridle for the tongue and passions; have care in handling fire-arms, combustibles, and dangerous chemicals. Some bad fires, explosions and accidents are now likely.

17—Saturday. This is a fortunate day for all honorable pursuits; buy goods for trade; seek favor from persons in public office or in authority and conduct negotiations concerning money and with persons of wealth and prominence.

18—Sunday. An excellent day for improvement of the mind and for proper appreciation of the merits of literary productions; the day is not favorable for dealing with persons much advanced in years.

19—Monday. An indifferent day, discouraging applications for favor from public officials and the doing of things pertaining to houses and lands; look sharp at the expenditures at this time.

20—Tuesday. Push all business vigorously during this day, but particularly such as pertains to the mechanical pursuits and trades; travel, trade in cattle and metals, and deal with chemists, physicians, military men, and cutlers; electricians and persons in the inventive and ingenious pursuits are particularly favored.

21—Wednesday. Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost; for buying goods for trade and money transactions generally; give preference to the forenoon hours for effecting engagements of consequence pertaining to houses and land or their improvement; also for dealing with farmers, contractors and builders, plumbers, ship-joiners and in agricultural implements and products.

22—Thursday. Be up before the Sun and employ every moment of the day until four in the afternoon; literary labors are performed with more facility from midnight till the noon of this day; have more than usual care in all money transactions and do not indulge in speculation in the afternoon hours, and see that loss from fire or explosion is not induced by carelessness as the day draws to its close.

23—Friday. Choose the first two-thirds of this day for literary pursuits and mental labors; do important correspondence and press sales of goods; as the day closes however, more mischievous and evil conditions prevail.

24—Saturday. A very favorable day generally for the pursuit of business and especially for dealings with public officials and persons of prominence in large corporations; domestic and musical matters are adversely affected in the evening.

25—Sunday. Christmas. The morning is excitable and patience and moderation are admonished; otherwise the day has an abundance of benevolence and conduces to the enjoyment of religious and moral elevation and intellectual improvement.

26—Monday. Have no dealings in real estate in the morning hours; avoid speculation during the middle of the day, and be careful what you sign during the last hours of the day when literary matters meet hindrances and embarrassments.

27—Tuesday. Total Eclipse of Moon. Give preferences to the forenoon for transactions with bankers and persons of means, and in money negotiations of all kinds

28—Wednesday. The conditions do not encourage dealings with mechanics or with persons in the dirty avocations or with real estate men, contractors, or shipwrights.

29—Thursday. The day is favorable for urging commercial transactions and such as depend upon mental labor; the early hours are especially favorable for literary matters and for prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies; let contracts affecting legal and educational matters be made; the evening is less fortunate.

30—Friday. Look to the purse in the forenoon; loan no money and gauge thine expenditures by thine actual needs; do not speculate, particularly by buying railway or mining stocks or shares; some unusual losses are apprehended for this time or some extraordinary misfortune in the financial world is apprehended for about this time; see that no chance is given for destructive fires and great losses therefrom in these passing weeks.

31—Saturday. The month closes with one of the best days for prosecution of commercial business; REGULUS particularly urges his friends in the intellectual pursuits to press their several vocations to the utmost and recommends the day equally for the merchant, tradesman and traveller; for change of residence and dealings with printers, booksellers, stationers, real estate men and counsellors; let the mind be employed to the fullest extent; let judges weigh testimony and decide important cases and lawyers take initiatory steps and urge proceedings in litigation of magnitude.

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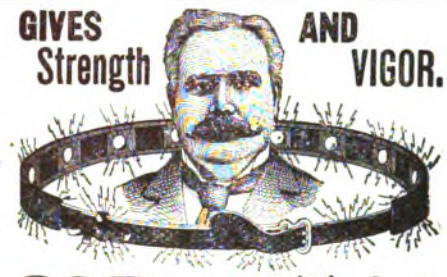
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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Whitelaw Reid is one of the best known members of the prominent peace commission who are to settle the difficult questions arising in this great war for principle. Like many men who have attained success, he claims the Buckeye State his birthplace. October 27, 1837, Xenia, Ohio, spell the alphabet of time and place for his birth. He is best known to Americans as the proprietor and editor-in-chief of the *New York Tribune* which position he has held since 1872. In his early youth he served the usual American apprenticeship at school teaching as superintendent of the graded schools in South Charleston, Ohio. When the Republican party was organized in 1856, he joined its ranks and "stumped" the State for Fremont the first nominee of the Republican party. At about this time he bought the *Xenia News* and in that paper he urged the nomination of Lincoln in 1860. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was City Editor of the *Cincinnati Gazette* but left his editorial duties to join the staff of General Morris in West Virginia. Later in the war he served on the staff of Gen. Rosecrans. During his service as a staff officer he furnished war news to his Cincinnati paper. For five years he was Librarian of the House of Representatives leaving that position in 1868 to become again a member of the editorial staff of the *Cincinnati Gazette*. Late in that same year he found Horace Greeley on the editorial staff of the *Tribune* and ever since that time he has been prominently identified with the great Republican newspaper. He has been offered the United States Mission at Berlin twice but each time declined the honor. In 1889, he became Minister to France and did much effective work for this country in securing a repeal of the French laws which prohibited the importation of meat from the United States. He resigned in 1892 returning to this country to receive the honor of a nomination to the vice-presidency. He was our special ambassador at the Queen's Jubilee in 1897. Mr. Reid's long experience in affairs, his knowledge of the situation and his personality make his appointment to this most important office a peculiarly fitting one.

Hall Caine is one of the prominent novelists of the world. It is three years ago since he was here in the interest of the international copyright law and these years have steadily added to his reputation. Hall Caine is the son of a blacksmith who had risen to the rank of a skilled ship mechanic. The first book that the boy remembers reading was one on the German Reformation with the lives of Luther and Melanchton. It was a ponderous book both in context and size but the boy carried it to the harvest field and pored over it with intense interest in the theological discussion. Once he actually lighted a candle so that he might finish the work. Candles were a forbidden luxury and he was severely reproved by his aunt with the words, "Candles lit! Candles! Wasting candles on men reading!" He seems to have been a serious boy with little interest in boyish games or sports but with an intense devotion to books. In fact the vein of tragic gloomy reality that pervades his books seems to have marked the boy. He attended school in Liverpool when his most marked characteristic was a fondness for reading Shakespeare. This he was often asked to do aloud and those readings caused him intense nervous agony. Books on history, philosophy, and theology were his favorite reading. He learned "by heart" the speeches of great parliamentary orators and these he would re-write from memory. At the age of fifteen he left school and was apprenticed to a land surveyor and architect. He showed no talent for this profession other than an ability to draw. A school geography published in England contains a map drawn by Hall Caine when he was but thirteen years of age. His first written work was a Life of Joseph written for a school competition. It was too long and so was not read by the committee. Before he wrote this he did as he always has since, read everything that could be found on the subject. He reads as he says "a whole library for each chapter." He soon drifted into magazine and newspaper work but his articles were deep and serious in tone. Rossetti urged him to become a dramatist. In view of this it is interesting to note that his late novel The Christian is dramatized and has been presented this fall in New York with great success. The Shadow of a Crime is one of his earliest novels and it was the dramatic possibilities in this book that led Rossetti to urge Hall Caine to become a dramatist. To this friend he also owes the suggestion that he should become the novelist of the Isle of Man. Manxland is world known now through the portrayals of Caine. He says himself of his method of writing that he writes the book in his head before he puts pen to paper. He visits every place that he describes, reads every book that relates to the subject. Around the central idea the incidents group rapidly. At five he wakens and goes over the chapter in his head. By seven he has it composed and then he spends an hour in revising it. Then he arises and writes it from memory as fast as his pen can move. He writes upon scraps of paper held on his knee. The rest of the day is spent walking, or lounging, but with his mind concentrated upon the book. He rarely writes more than fifteen hundred words a day. Among his best known books are The Scapegoat, A Son of Hagar, The Deemster, The Roddsman and The Christian. There is an utter lack of humor in his writing but a strongly dramatic turn and an inflexible determination to show moral cause and effect that renders them fascinating in a gloomy way.



The truth of the sentiment, "French history is always dramatic" is proven again and again by the incidents of French history. No incident since the mystery of the Man in the Iron Mask has arrested public attention more than the Dreyfus affair. The French Government seems about to be overturned through the matter and the whole civilized world is interested in the result.

Albert Dreyfus is an Alsatian Jew who was a captain in the 14th Regiment of Artillery in the French Army. He was detailed for services at the Information Bureau of the Minister of War. On October 15, 1894 he was arrested under the weighty charge of having sold secrets to a foreign power. A French detective claimed that he had found an incriminating letter at the German embassy in the handwriting of Dreyfus. Public sentiment in France had been aroused against the Jews through the columns of Libre Parole. Dreyfus had a brief military trial and was degraded from his rank and ordered to be imprisoned for life on Devil's Island which is a penal settlement off the coast of French Guiana. Here he lives in a hut, surrounded by an iron cage and receiving only such letters and news as passes through the hands of his jailors. He has asserted his innocence from the first. His wife has never ceased in her effort to obtain a new trial, and tragic and dramatic interest of the affair has continued to develop in spite of the refusal of the ministry to grant a new trial. The suicide of Col. Henry, with his admission that part of the evidence on which Dreyfus was condemned was forged, has led to a crisis in the government of France. It seems now that the trial must be re-opened. In the meantime Dreyfus is probably ignorant of the tide which has turned in his favor.



Ishbel, Lady Aberdeen, does not need her hereditary title or her high official rank to give her a place among the foremost women of the century. "She is a good woman" said Cardinal Manning of her and it is this goodness united with great executive ability that has made the name of Lady Aberdeen world known. She is Scotch and traces her name and ancestry back to the days when King Robert the Bruce gave a grant of land to his daughter Marjorie upon her marriage to a commoner. The family name Marjoribanks came from this fact and Ishbel Marjoribanks is a worthy descendant of the daughter of a king. She first saw Lord Aberdeen when she was but eleven years of age and in 1877 she became Lady Aberdeen. Among her most cherished possessions are a set of little silver coffee cups presented to her by General Gordon. She passed her honeymoon in Egypt and while going up the Nile met General Gordon. Lord Aberdeen is the head of the Gordon Clan and Gen. Gordon came to pay his respects to him as the head of his house. Lord and Lady Aberdeen entered at once upon their philanthropic schemes, for during their honeymoon they formally adopted five children. One of these, an Egyptian, was brought to England to be educated and is now a missionary in China. Lady Aberdeen began her work as an organizer by forming among the poor people on her estates in Aberdeenshire the "Onward and Upward Society." This society now has about 9000 members throughout the world. It has been called a combination of the Young Woman's Christian Association, Working Girls' Club and the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Association. Lady Aberdeen claims descent from the O'Neils of Ireland and during the brief time that she inhabited the vice-regal palace at Dublin she became much interested in the Irish Industries Association. The Irish village at the World's Fair in Chicago was the outcome of Lady Aberdeen's effort to interest the public in Irish manufactures. The Irish lace in particular attracted much attention and forty-seven medals were awarded to the displays of the Irish village. The Woman's Liberal Federation with its 80,000 members has claimed Lady Aberdeen as its President. Lady Aberdeen believes firmly in woman's suffrage and is thoroughly interested in all the political problems of the day. The Liberal Federation was formed to sustain the interest of the Liberal Party but it has widened its sphere of active interest in all great questions of the day. Whatever questions may arise in regard to the industrial field for women find a sympathetic student in Lady Aberdeen. She is interested in all questions that bear upon the advancement of the race and is particular in all schemes relating to the development of opportunities for women. Lord and Lady Aberdeen were honored guests at Chautauqua during the past summer and many thousands of American women will regret Lady Aberdeen's departure from America.



Two of the great portrait painters of France have recently visited America—Boldini and Carolus Duran. The latter artist has become a great social lion and between the intervals of his portrait painting he has indulged his fondness for social attention. He can well afford to take some recreation for the prices charged for his work are enormous even in these days of substantial recognition of art. His charges are, for a full size bust $4000, for three-quarters length and for full length $8,000, for a child's portrait, a life size bust $3,000, three-quarter length $4,000, full length $5,000. For mother and child three-quarter length $10,000, full length $14,000. An American artist said of Duran "He is the most radical of French painters having created a French Revolution of his own in painting." Duran's motto is "Paint from life, imagination is a fool. There is nothing so beautiful as nature." Duran is sixty-one but in that time he has conquered the world of art. His real name is Charles Auguste Emile Durand. His father was a horse dealer of Lille, while his mother kept a Cafe that was patronized by the students. Their gifted son was born upon our nation's birthday in 1837. He began his art studies under Souchon director of the Art school of Lille. Duran worked his way on and from Paris went to Spain and Italy. Since then his course has been steadily upward. He is a genre and portrait painter and also a sculptor. In 1866, 1869 and 1870 he took first class medals; after receiving other medals he became a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor and in 1878 an officer of the Legion of Honor—one of the highest artistic distinctions in France. Among his best-known pictures are, Evening Prayer, The Victim of an Assassination, St. Francis of Assissi, A Child on the Banks of the Tagus, A Future Doge, A Burial and a Vision. His later work has been mainly in the line of portraits and many wealthy American women have gone to Paris in order that Duran might paint their portraits. His wife is the sister of a famous French actress Sophie Croizette. One of his first great successes was his portrait of his beautiful wife. He is a great teacher as well as a great artist and has numbered among his pupils men who had already attained distinction, but who aspired to learn the secret of the method that had raised Duran to his lonely altitude. Duran has been kept busy since his arrival in America. Posterity will know him best as the painter of beautiful women and children and of all the array of rich and delicate stuff that he loves to put in his portraits.

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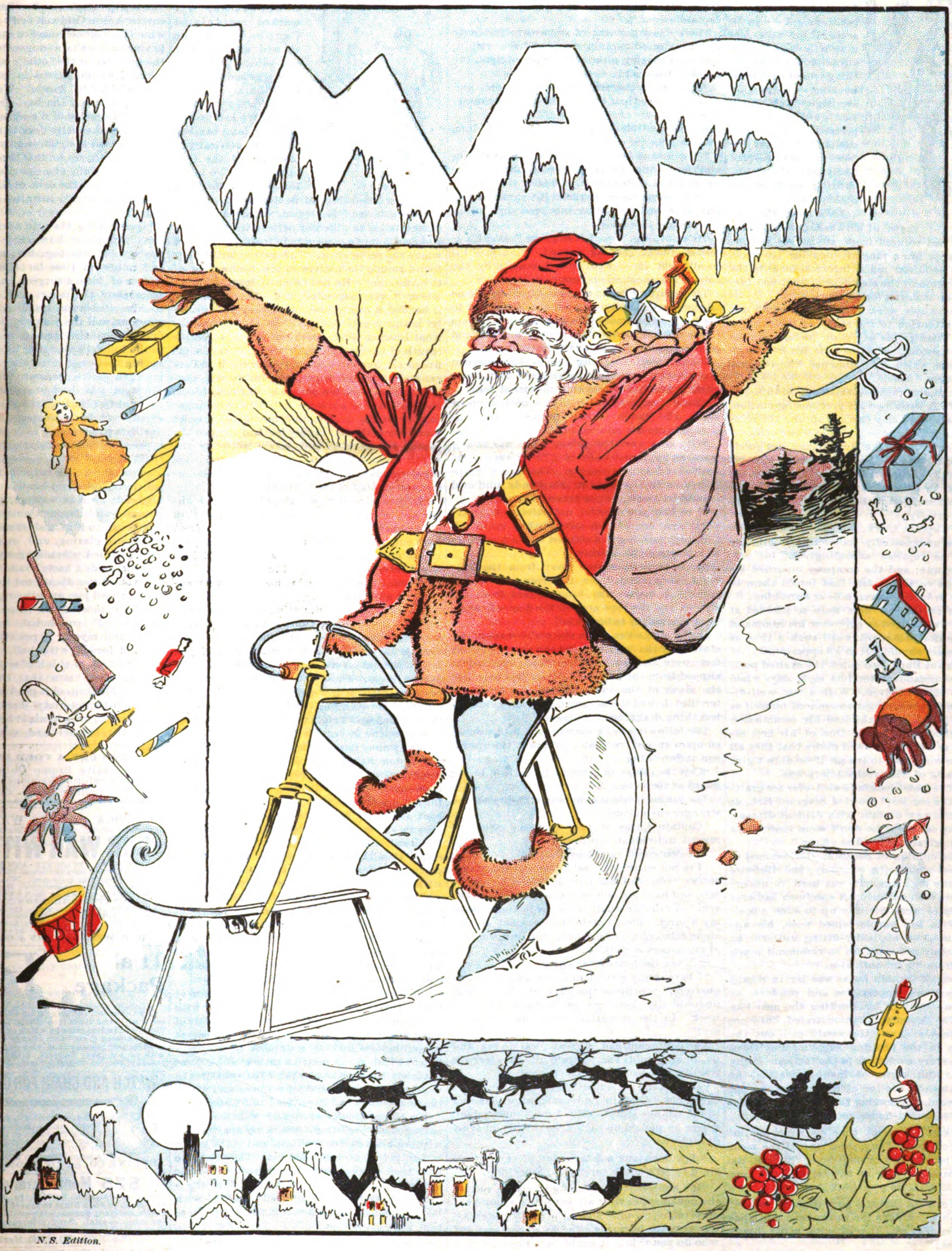
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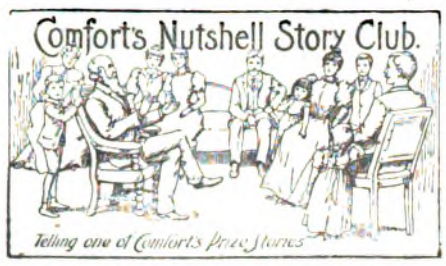
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NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE BOSTON.

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR DECEMBER.

Howard M. Strong, First Prize.
C. H. Douglas, Second Prize.
"Margaret Brownson," Third Prize.
Helen M. Winslow, Fourth Prize.
Nicholas Lamar, Fifth Prize.

THE REVOLT AT SURETHING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

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"GOD made the country, and man made the town"—self-evident and worn thread-bare by reason of vain repetitions. To have accredited the Almighty with the authorship of Surething would have been nothing short of sacrilege. Job Ward was guilty of perpetrating that particular blot on the face of nature—precisely speaking, the shifting sands of the Staked Plain.

Joe's inspiration had come in the shape of a baked clay canteen. This he had secured from an Indian Squaw, in exchange for a plug of "dog-leg" tobacco. He also acquired much information as to the exact location of the clay deposit that had furnished the material for the canteen.

For one whole week Job Ward gave his undivided attention to the study of the canteen and the little grains of yellow metal incorporated in its sides. Then he bade his friends an affectionate adieu, and launched himself into the trackless desert.

Job's acumen was proverbial, and in this venture he fully sustained his previous reputation. From that baked clay canteen sprung the mining town, Surething—and other lesser evils.

In the eyes of the law Job's claim was good; but in the opinion of the Indians he and his town simply encumbered the earth. Hence the continual presence of three officers and a handful of soldiers designated as company "B" of the 59th cavalry.

When Captain Clark, the commander of the post, was unexpectedly transferred to another station, he rejoiced exceedingly at his rare good fortune; and the company mourned his loss, while cursing a fate that forced them to vegetate in such a barren hole as Surething.

As the captain's orders were to proceed at once, he was obliged to give over his command to the senior lieutenant, until such a time as his successor should put in an appearance.

Lieutenant Buck had filled the exalted position of commandant for just eight days when the new officer arrived. With a few well-directed oaths the stranger announced himself as Captain Lucas, and exhibited his commission duly signed and sealed. One of his first remarks was a loudly avowed desire that they all might be consigned to the pit if he didn't give them a taste of what real soldiery was.

"He's the worst lookin' scab I ever see grafted onto the service," growled Sergeant Hall, as he eyed the new captain with evident disgust. "Blast my carcass if he don't seem more like a drunken private than a first officer."

And the opinion of Sergeant Hall seemed to be general among the company, and likewise over at the diggings. It was hard to understand how such an uncouth specimen had ever been able to work his way up to such a position. With his purple-veined nose, his unshaven face, and his badly-fitting uniform, he was certainly not a person to command much respect from his subordinates.

However, if Captain Lucas was lax in regard to his personal appearance and conduct, he evened up matters by working the men like dogs. The lieutenants remonstrated, but were cursed into silence. He would call out the company in the broiling sun and put them through every evolution in the tactics. If any dared exhibit signs of insubordination, he treated them to the toe of his boot or the flat of his sword. Following this would come ten days in the guard-house, on bread and water.

"I reckon it's about time we were sendin' him a drum-head," suggested one of the men, after a particularly trying day. "Strikes me things have gone on in this style 'bout long enough. What do you think, boys?"

It was evident that the boys thought so, too; for within a few days the drum-head was laboriously engrossed. It read, with many heavy flourishes:

"CAP. LOWCUSS: We are just about sick of you and think you had better seek a change of climate. Surething is always warm, but it can be made warmer. In fact it's too unhealthy a place for you to live in."

Around the margin of this startling document were inscribed the names of the entire company, with the exception of the lieutenants. Several skulls and daggers were also added, by way of embellishment.

Soon after "taps" the "drum-head" was slipped beneath the captain's door. All around the dark parade the men were crouching in the deep shadows, anxiously awaiting the result of their rash experiment.

As the captain was sitting up with his glass and bottle, they did not have long to wait. His door flew open, and his hulking figure was sharply silhouetted by the light of a lamp and the blaze from a few sticks of wood on the hearth. Then his hoarse voice bellowed out an order that reached every ear within the enclosure.

"I'm afraid you're in for it now, boys," said Lieutenant Buck, while the company was forming into line. "I'll prefer charges against him, though: he's drunk as a dog."

"He'll get worse not charges," growled a surly voice; "'less there's lead on top of 'em."

With steady step the little company marched across the parade, halting abruptly before the captain's door.

There was a moment of suspense. Suddenly the intoxicated captain emerged from within, bearing a blazing pine brand spitted upon the point of his sword.

"He'll spile the temper o' that sword, and make it worse than his own," some one muttered.

A half-audible laugh ran down the line, reaching the ear of the angry captain.

With insane fury he screamed forth an oath, and springing forward, thrust the burning brand into Lieutenant Buck's face.

From somewhere in the front ranks a rifle butt shot out with unerring accuracy, felling the captain like a log.

"It's nothing, boys, it's nothing," said Lieutenant Buck, groping around blindly. "I'll be all right in—" and he fell heavily by the side of his unconscious assailant.

The company broke ranks in disorder. Some of the men hastily carried the lieutenant to his room and summoned the surgeon. Others threw themselves upon the captain and dragged him upon the ground to the guard-house.

It was near morning when the surgeon crossed the parade to where the men were silently grouped before an iron-barred door.

"Boys," said he, with deep emotion, "poor Buck will never be able to see again. The cursed brute has blinded him."

Without a word the prison door was swung open, and two men entered. There was a short scuffle and some swearing. Then they reappeared with the captain, his hands pinioned behind him and a noose around his neck.

"I reckon you'd better not witness it, Doc." suggested one of the men; "we're takin' all the responsibility. And then it ain't goin' to be a pretty sight, neither."

As the surgeon moved away from the little band, they started for the rear gate of the corral. A horse was brought out from the stables, and the rope around the doomed man's neck tied to the animal's tail.

Half a mile away from the white-washed enclosure of the garrison, the cowering victim's feet were bound together, and the bridle slipped from the horse. A dozen bayonets tore the flank of the vicious brute, and with a terrified bound it was gone, a helpless, shapeless thing dragging at its heels.

The following day a man in rags, and mounted upon an old crowbate, rode into the garrison at Surething.

"Call the officer in command," he said to the guard at the gate.

The junior lieutenant appeared and eyed the stranger suspiciously.

"Captain Lucas, at your service," said the ragged individual, saluting.

The lieutenant stared nervously.

"I'm not surprised," said the captain, pleasantly; "you see I was held up about a month ago, and have just got over a bullet through the arm. A rancher kindly took me in and dressed my wound. The villain that waylaid me not alone relieved me of my horse and uniform, but of my papers as well."

Still the lieutenant was silent.

"I have sent a statement of my case to headquarters," continued the captain, "and I will undoubtedly have my credentials within a week. In the meantime, what have you to say?"

The lieutenant had a great deal to say, and he finally told the captain of the terrible tragedy that had just been enacted.

"He was the same man that robbed me, without doubt," Captain Lucas said, after listening to the strange story. "But I can't understand where he picked up such a knowledge of army discipline."

A few days later a detachment of cavalry arrived to relieve the garrison at Surething.

"It's a mighty queer thing," related one of the new men, as they all gathered around the mess table; "comin' along the trail yesterday, we drove the buzzards off a busted carcass; and who do you think it could be?. Bless me if it wasn't old Major-General Billy Dogg, late deserter from this here same company. 'Rest his bones', says we, 'for that's all there'll be o' him by sundown.'"

"W'at was his rank?" questioned Sergeant Hall, with apparent unconcern.

"Billy was so rank he outranked 'em all, comrade," replied the soldier, laughing loudly. "He was a drunken private in ball an' chain, till he sifted one day. How he came in such a shape as we found him, I ain't prepared to say. An' may God have mercy on his good-for-nothingness."

"Amen," said the sergeant.

Although the main facts of the case were generally understood in army circles, it is needless to say that the War Department never received official notification of the revolt at Surething.

The Mystery of the Caldwell Duel.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY C. H. DOUGLAS.

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THAT weapon is a memento of the most interesting case that ever came under my observation," remarked my friend Carpenter, as he showed me one after the other the relics that adorned the walls of his library.

"What is it?" I asked. We had paused before a long bamboo rod hung vertically at one side of the fireplace. "It looks as though it might be a part of an old-fashioned fishing pole."

"It is a device," he replied, "used by several savage tribes in different parts of the two hemispheres, but of course only in tropical countries where the reeds grow. This particular style is found among the natives of the headwaters of the Amazon." He had taken it from the hook where it was suspended, and after inspecting it handed it over to me. I examined it minutely, in turn, and found it to all appearances what I had at first pronounced it, a simple length of bamboo perfectly straight and some five or six feet in length. I returned it to Carpenter and waited impatiently for an explanation. There were few places he had not visited, and little he had not seen; indeed in his younger days before he had settled down to a quiet home life with his family he had played the part of a modern knight errant, roaming the world over as the spirit moved him and winning friends at every hand by his cleverness and the display of his brilliant faculties.

"Do you give up?" he said, picking with finger and thumb first at one extremity and then at the other of the pole, and producing from each end successively a small wooden plug whose presence had masked a cylindrical hole bored into each end parallel to its length.

"Go on," I said, piqued at his deliberate manner. "I am impatient."

"Of course," he said, sitting on the table and toying with the mysterious weapon, "you cannot remember what conditions prevailed before the civil war, and the reading that you have done has served only to form some imperfect ideas. Those of us who have lived that long are surprised, when we think of it, at the contrast between the customs of to-day and those which held before the Rebellion. Especially is this true as regards the South.

"The strong hand of the Federal Government which dominated those states during the reconstruction period forever blotted out the common practice of duelling. I say common, for though even at that time it was carried on contrary to the laws, it was carried on nevertheless. A fancied wrong, a blow, an insult, a hot word, almost any little pretext was sufficient; then the seconds met and arranged the particulars, the meeting took place, usually with the added presence of a surgeon or two, and the cause of honor was vindicated. Sometimes the result was a stab or a minor gunshot wound; at others one or even both of the combatants suffered death. In the former case the consequences were a scar or two; in the latter, a funeral. And that was all, for no one could be found to enforce the law.

"In the year 1858, I had come to Charleston at the height of the social season, armed with letters of introduction that opened the doors of some very nice people. A month or so passed by and besides making a number of acquaintances I had accumulated a rather unwelcome notoriety through two or three little matters in which I had volunteered my services, and which the newspapers had magnified and distorted.

"On the particular evening I mention I was sitting clad in evening dress in my apartments, wishing heartily for bedtime, and this under rather peculiar circumstances. There was to have been a reception at the home of Seville Caldwell, a rich planter, but as that very afternoon Caldwell had been killed in a duel with his cousin and next door neighbor, the reception was of course put off.

"It was about half-past nine or perhaps a little later when a caller was announced. By the time I had thrown off my dress coat and donned a loose blouse, two elderly gentlemen were ushered in. I recognized them both as officers in the United States army whom I had met once or twice since coming to the city. One, Major Cilly, stepped aside and made room for his companion, Colonel Callahan, in command of one of the forts—I have forgotten its name, but it lies abreast of Sumpter on the south.

"'You a' no doubt fully conve'sant with the details of the unfo'tunate affai' between the cousins Caldwell,' began the colonel, after a formal bow from each of my callers.

"I placed seats for them, remarking that I knew little of the matter but considered it a very sad affair.

"'And mo' so,' rejoined the colonel, 'as it was wholly unexpected and might have been avoided. It is inexplicable.'

"'Little sho't of pe'plexing,'' put in the major.

"They had both declined the chairs, and stood awkwardly, appearing very much agitated. I thought it was simply the outcome of the duel that troubled them.

"'The cousins Caldwell, the majo' and myself we' boyhood companions,' went on the colonel, 'and while we have had diffe'ences at times ou' relations have been fo' the most pa't amicable.' Major Cilly nodded affirmatively. 'Yeste'day afte'noon Seville Caldwell and his cousin Anson Caldwell had a slight dispute ove' wine (the colonel coughed apologetically), and having said ce'tain ungentlemanly things in the presence of the othe's agreed to meet at once. I was deputized to act fo' Seville, and the majo' he' fo' Anson. We chose the place—a spot just down the bay—and believing that the me' discha'ge of fi'e-a'ms would suffice, as you know it usually does in mild cases, we decided to load the pistols only with powde'.'

"I had seen up to this time nothing but the ordinary details of a common duel, but now I began to catch the drift of the colonel's narrative, and I quickly surmised what had brought them there.

"Questioning them in turn I soon had the story complete; how they expected to bring the combatants together, wind up the affair, and return in time for the reception. As a matter of form a surgeon had been engaged to accompany the party, and, as a non-partisan, to him had been intrusted the care of the weapons, and the duty of giving the signal to fire. When the men were placed, (according to the colonel's account) he and the major, believing that everything was well, were buttoning their gloves preparatory to returning to the carriages. At the first signal the weapons were brought to position; the command to fire was given, and both weapons cracked. The two duellists stood facing each other. The colonel approached Seville Caldwell to suggest that he shake hands with his cousin and call the quarrel off. To his surprise he saw his principal slowly raise one hand and press it against his head; then he swayed, and crashed to the ground, and lay motionless. All four of the others ran to him and raised him up, but his eyes were glazing, and every muscle in his body seemed stretching and straining. The surgeon made a hasty examination and a bleeding wound was discovered in the white skin of the forehead just over the right temple.

"'Now how, in the name of Heaven, do you explain it?' concluded the colonel. 'The majo' and myself a' positive that the pistols we' not loaded with ball. We a' at ou' wits ends, and could think of nothing but coming to you. You know that little matte' of Mrs. General McClintock's pea'l necklace has given you no little notoriety—I should say fame.'

"I smiled; which might have been because of what the colonel had said, or what he had

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meant, or what I was thinking about him, but the case was interesting and I was anxious to know more about it. On inquiry I was told that the undertaker had been sent for and doubtless even now had charge of the body. We left the house together and started on foot to the Caldwell residence. Both of the old gentlemen were depressed and not inclined to talk, and I took advantage of the silence to review the facts. The two principals had fired at each other with pistols, loaded by the two seconds. These gentlemen claimed that no bullet had been used. The only other party to the affair was the surgeon who had given the signal to fire, and who *had charge of the weapons.*

"I asked how the choice of the two pistols had been determined. They said that the surgeon had handed one to each combatant without resorting to lot, or even allowing them a selection. Had the surgeon seemed surprised when Seville Caldwell fell? No, he had not. But then, as he did not know that the seconds had agreed to use blank charges, there was no reason why he should be surprised. I asked if the surgeon and the deceased planter were known to each other. Only a slight acquaintance, they believed. The surgeon was a young man and comparatively little known. Had he been paying his attentions to Miss Caldwell, the daughter of the house? Yes, they had heard something to that effect; mere gossip, probably. Was her father favorable? It was doubtful if he knew anything about it; he had probably never given the young man a thought.

"We arrived at the big, dark house and were admitted by a gray-haired old negro who trembled and snuffled in a way that would have brought tears to your eyes. The body had just been laid out, and removing the cloths from the face the undertaker pointed out the wound. It was small, almost insignificant, and seemed to have been made by a glancing rather than a penetrating blow. A brief examination convinced me that the bone had not suffered; beyond that I could make nothing out of it. I noticed particularly, however, that the lips and nostrils were turning a bluish tint, as though decomposition had already set in. Reverting to the surgeon again I asked whether it was reasonable to suppose that if Mr. Caldwell had known of his intention respecting his daughter he would have approved. The colonel said he thought not; besides there was another claimant for the young lady's hand, the nephew of Mr. Caldwell whose suit was favored by his uncle but not by the young lady herself.

"On descending again to the first floor we encountered the young man in question. He was rather handsome and stood well among the people of Charleston's military society. For my own part, although I had met him frequently I had never succeeded in conquering the feeling of dislike that I had experienced at our first meeting.

"Major Cilly suggested going next to the scene of the duel. Young Caldwell offered to accompany us, and stepped out to order the carriage. He appeared to me to be much under the influence of liquor. On the road I asked a number of questions concerning the surgeon, and Caldwell seeing the direction of the interrogation, supplied some valuable information about his antecedents, professional practice, character and habits of life.

"After a time we arrived at the site of the duel, a level strip of river bottom fringed with trees. The open expanse was brightly lighted by the moon. As we alighted from the carriage I tripped over some object that had apparently fallen by the roadside. Stooping and picking it up it proved to be a bamboo pole—this that I hold in my hand. Caldwell offered to take it from me, with rather more warmth, I thought, than the occasion demanded. I declined, and using it for a walking stick followed the older gentlemen through the trees skirting the battle ground.

"I inquired where Anson Caldwell had stood, where his cousin had stood, where the seconds had been posted, and particularly the point from which the surgeon had given the signal. All this was explained with the most painstaking detail. 'I am surprised that the bullet should have taken effect in the head,' I observed. 'It is customary among most duellists to fire at the breast.'

"'Miste' Anson Caldwell told me,' said Major Cilly, 'that he fi'ed at his cousin's pistol a'm.'

"'Is he a good shot?'

"'One of the best in the city!'

"I had been watching young Caldwell covertly. He seemed to be in search of something on the ground, and was wandering carelessly up and down and glancing from side to side. Just at that instant I caught sight of a peculiar object lying in the grass near the position which the unforunate Seville Caldwell had held. I stooped for it, and young Caldwell spied it at the same time. It was a reed about the size of a lead pencil, weighted at one end and sharpened to a point. His fingers closed on it and he said with considerable more agitation than he had shown over the bamboo pole, 'Let me see it!' at the same time jerking with main strength. I gripped it the tighter. His face flushed angrily, and with a muttered curse he jerked again. His fingers slipped and the sharp point scratched across the back of his hand, leaving a narrow red streak. For an instant he stood and stared at the wound; I was prompted to apologize for the injury. Then the color all left his face and into his eyes came a most terrible expression of unutterable despair. He started to run wildly, and fell; stumbled up again, and fell again; shrieked, rolled his head from side to side, grovelled with his face to earth, twisted and writhed. Then he broke into words and prayed to God, to the devil, besought heaven and hell for a day, an hour; screamed that he was not fit to die; raised himself on his hands and dragged his lower limbs, which were now all paralyzed, after him like the slimy worms you sometimes see in damp places.

"We ran to him as soon as surprise released us; but there was nothing we could do for him. Now he had sunk back to the ground. 'The will!' he cried, trying to get an envelope from an inside pocket. 'Uncle made it in favor of Ethel and me. In a few days he would have heard about me and changed it. I killed him! I killed him so he could not change it. It was the blow gun and the poisoned arrow I brought from Brazil.—There is no escape.—It was such an opportunity—the duel—they would think it was a bullet.'

"And then the blue tint gathered around his lips and nostrils and he flattened out and died. I threw the arrow into the depths of the river, and we gathered up the body of the murderer, executed by his own engine of death, and all rode back into the city to the house where the dead uncle lay.

"I wish," concluded Carpenter, "that I could illumine this gloomy story by adding that Ethel Caldwell and the young surgeon, on whom my false suspicion fell, were happily married; but I left Charleston a week or so later and of course that was too soon after death had so heavily visited the household, to follow with a wedding."

THE FAVORITES OF TIME.

How the Matron Preserves Her Maiden Beauty.

Has old Father Time his favorites? It would seem so. Two young girls, sisters or schoolmates, assume the responsibilities of wedlock at the same time. They are equally young, equally fair. They walk in even step with Time for a few years, and then they are so different in appearance that they might pass for mother and daughter instead of women of equal age.

As a matter of fact Time has no favorites; he is kind to those who are kind to themselves. The younger looking woman will tell you she does not know how it is that she keeps her youth and fairness, she uses no cosmetic, no powder, no paint. The woman who looks so much older will say, "I'm obliged to use paint and powder, I have to cover up my yellow skin



and hide these wrinkles." If you probe a little deeper into the secrets of these women, you will find that the youthful one has learned that the best cosmetic is health, and that there can be no general health for the body which is hourly undermined by the local ill-health of the delicate female organs. Knowing this she has taken prompt means to cure the disagreeable drains, the bearing-down pains, and the inflammations and ulcerations, which to a greater or less extent affect most women who experience the tremendous change which by marriage and motherhood is wrought on the distinctly feminine organs.

The older appearing woman will tell you the common story of constant and useless doctoring for backache, for female weakness, for debilitating drains. Inflammation like a fire burns up her strength. Ulceration like a leech saps her vitality. Nature cannot make a bright eye and a pure complexion without rich, pure blood. This woman's blood flows sluggishly along the canals of the body, like some oozy, slimy current, whose motion barely keeps it from utter stagnation.

Beauty is every woman's birthright. A healthy woman is always beautiful. This secret of health and beauty for every woman lies in the recognition of the plain truth that where there are local diseases of the organs distinctively feminine, there can be no health and beauty while these debilitating, life-sapping ailments continue.

"But," comes the natural question "can these diseases be cured?" It is no wonder women ask the question in view of the failures of ordinary practitioners. Hundreds of thousands of such cases have in the past thirty years been referred to Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., and although the majority are chronic cases aggravated by injudicious and ignorant treatment, yet the great record stands that of thousands of such suffering women ninety-eight out of every hundred have been entirely cured.

"I feel it a duty to inform you that I had been a sufferer for many years from nervousness with all its symptoms and complications," writes Mrs. O. N. Fisher, 1861 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y. "I was constantly going to see a physician or purchasing medicine for this or that complaint as my troubles became unbearable. In the spring of 1897 my husband induced me to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. After taking one bottle and following your advice I was so encouraged that I took five more bottles of 'Favorite Prescription' and then I did not take any more for several weeks as I felt so much better, but still I was not *completely cured.* I commenced taking it again and felt that I was improving faster than at first. I am not now cross and irritable, and I have a good color in my face; have also gained about ten pounds in weight and *one thousand pounds of comfort,* for I am a new woman once more and your advice and your 'Favorite Prescription' are the causes of it, coupled with your 'Pleasant Pellets' which are not to be dispensed with. I took eight bottles of the 'Prescription,' the last time, making fourteen in all, and will not take any more unless you so advise, for I do not see as I need it. I have often told my friends how I was cured, and have been no little surprised to learn how many of them have also used Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription with great benefit. I have induced several to try it and have heard that they were much pleased with the results."

The record of such cures is unimpeachable, as is the fact that they have been enjoyed by ninety-eight per cent. of the women who have tried Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Any sick or ailing woman can consult Dr. Pierce by letter without charge. By this method there is no subjecting of the patient to the embarrassing questions, offensive examinations, and obnoxious local treatments which frighten so many modest women away from the door of help. You can write freely, frankly, fully, keeping nothing in reserve because your letter will be read in private and all its confidences will be held sacred. You can write without fee as without fear.

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A keen observer of human nature recently said: "I mistrust the druggist who endeavors to dissuade me from buying the medicine I had in mind on entering his store. My fear is that he may change my doctor's prescription to make it better suit his convenience and selfish interests." The moral is, patronize the dealer who respects your judgment and gives you exactly what you call for.

One of the best books of the day is Dr. Pierce's great work, "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser." 1008 pages and over 700 illustrations. This book is sent free on receipt of stamps to cover cost of mailing *only.* Send 21 one-cent stamps for the paper bound edition, or 31 stamps for the handsome edition bound in cloth. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

CHRISTMAS IN EDEN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARGARET BROWNSON.

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It was recess time on the fifth floor of that world famous journal, the New York Daily Globe, and in the room set apart for the Woman's Department the queen was holding audience. Not that the young editor—who had put away sentimentality with her five years in newspaperdom—so named the noon gathering of the floor's masculine forces in her especial province. But to-day the figure of speech was all but real. For twenty-four hours Miss Aldrich was holding a position that corresponded in the world journalistic to that of the Czar of all the Russias among nations. In short she, as editor-in-chief, had piloted to overwhelming success the great Woman's Charity Edition of the New York Globe—an edition that, as the Exchange Editor now put it, was "manned, from telegraph editor to office girl, by the Eternal Feminine culled from the flower of New York's Women Journalists."

"And, therefore, Bradley, under the ban of your disapproval, I suppose," continued that champion of Miss Aldrich's prowess, to the man at his side, "it's because he believes woman's place is the 'safe, sweet corner by the household fire,' that the Oracle remains dumb."

Miss Aldrich put out an admonishing hand with a negative, birdlike motion of her bright brown head. If the dark, middle-aged Westerner, whose farseeing editorials had won this expressive office *nom de plume,* withheld his meed of praise she certainly would not have it extracted by force, she told herself, with a certain tense hold upon her mouth.

The Oracle drew himself up as though with an effort. "I beg your pardon. Yes, certainly, I congratulate Miss Aldrich on having got out an edition of the Globe that's outselling the regular sheet two to one, and has already netted the biggest contribution of the year to the Fresh Air Fund." His phrases were as exact as those of a child reciting for marks. "But to tell the truth," he went on, with a sudden confidential openness, "my mind wasn't with the New York Globe just then. It was with journalism in Eden."

"Eden! Lucky fellow," observed the Star Reporter, with a meaning glance down at the city square, seething like a human caldron this humid August day. "Come, I scent a story; let's have it."

"You're welcome to the story—such as it is," said the Oracle, settling back again, "but the Eden I speak of—well, it's about as far from the original one as any place on the map. A coal mining town it was, in—no matter what state in the West; and the grime from the mines was everywhere so that the 'face of Nature' that people talk about, was one gigantic smutch. In winter it was worse, for the snow hardly fell before it was smirched as if from a sooty lamp. Then the houses were of the packing-box, run-up-in-the-night fashion, built on stilts most of them, as the river when it was high had a pleasant way of taking possession of cellars.

"Not an ideal place for a man to take his young wife to, but the woman I'm thinking of—well—she'd been used to solid country comfort, but I suppose she loved him enough so that she thought nothing of 'making his people her people and his gods her gods.'

"It's a way women have—in a new country," he mused with faraway eyes. "As for the man," the speaker continued, "he probably thought the sun, moon and stars put together shone just for giving similes of what she brought into his life. He was a bit of a poet—in his heart—though he never got beyond prose in writing. He was a newspaper man, you see."

"Ah-h!" came in a long drawn note of appreciation from the group. Only Miss Aldrich sat without a word, her eyes fixed on the glaring white partition, her hands lying listless in her lap.

"Yes," continued the speaker, "one of the old-fashioned sort. Worked his way up from the printer's case until he'd saved enough to set up for himself. Then he prospected around until he found the plant suited to his heart and pocket—the *Eden Weekly Gazette,* with a circulation of eight hundred copies at one dollar a year; quite an income—on paper.

"The office wasn't exactly metropolitan," went on Mr. Bradley, with a smile. "There were no elevators or speaking tubes, or departments or big presses. In fact the entire establishment those two took possession of consisted of a four room cottage. In three of these the young people ate and slept and cooked. The fourth was private office and editorial room in one. And here the man performed the duties of editor, reporter, and business manager combined, with only a boy to run the hand press.

"It seemed a good deal to him until he reflected that his wife not only baked and brewed and swept and dressmaked and turned tailor into the bargain, but even managed to 'get her second wind' in the evening, so that she could play on the melodeon that had been her father's wedding present, until the man almost forgot that eight hundred subscribers on paper were very different from three hundred who paid cash in advance and five hundred who paid in promises—or produce. In Eden, you understand, the editor, like the minister must, for value received, accept with a 'thank you' anything from pork to potatoes. As these transactions were regulated not by the need but by their subscribers' abundance, it was alternately feast time and famine, as the man said laughingly, with these two babes in the woods.

"But by and by there came a day when famine threatened in reality. One gray evening in early December the young husband came into the house with a look on his face the wife had never seen there before. It was the look of a man who had felt a blow in the dark.

"'A rival paper,' he said, briefly, 'plenty of capital, presses run by machinery, staff of four; the proprietors are to use it as a political weapon and don't care for expense. Mary you've married a failure. Fate is driving me against the wall.'

"And the wife?—well, never mind what she said. It was just one of those heaven-sent things that such women have for such times.

Anyway it put heart in the man; and before the evening was past he was armed to fight the invaders.

"'I must increase the size of the paper, Mary, and hustle around for more county news,' he said that night; 'and, what's more, I'm going to get out a Christmas number, double size, history of the town, reminiscences of old settlers, and all that. Oh, we'll win the day yet, love, never fear.'

"Now there's an end to the elasticity even of India-rubber strength and courage. Before this the man had been burning the candle at both ends. Now he attacked it in the middle. Day after day saw him tramping around town and county to interview old settlers. Night after night he sat in the grimy office, writing upon those precious articles for the Christmas number. And day after day, the wife saw the lines deepen on that dear face.

"There was no time for the melodeon now. Even the wife had turned her hand to typesetting. But the hardest task must have been the silent one. For not by word or action must she show the fear of that shadow darkening her husband's eyes.

"For to the man it seemed as though poverty and failure had taken misty form and stood over him. And presently there came a night when he heard their voices in his ears and cried out with a mighty cry.

"'Typhoid fever,' the doctor said, when summoned. And then followed a long dim interval in which the man knew neither day nor night, only tossing with thirst and pain and from time to time a loved face shining through a grey mist. If only he could throw off that intolerable weight and get to his work! That was the burden of his soul's cry. 'The paper, I must get it out, I must!' he would murmur; and then the mist would close over him again.

"It was Christmas Day when he awoke. The sun shining through the window of his bedroom fell on the wreath of evergreen against the pane, on a plate heaped with oranges and grapes standing on the table by his bedside ('a subscription,' he murmured faintly), and then—with a sick doubt he turned to the wall and shut his eyes. 'The fever,' he said wearily. 'It will disappear when I look again.' But when he turned back eyes staring incredulously, *It* had not disappeared, neither did It vanish into thin air when he put out his hand weakly for the reassurance of touch. When the wife crept in five minutes later she found her husband propped up in bed, the tears rolling down his cheeks and dropping upon the Christmas number of the *Eden Weekly Gazette!*

"Yes, there it was, historical articles, old settlers' reminiscences, extra county news, even a Christmas editorial, very crude as to composition but breathing such 'peace and good will to men' as to make one forget that the sentences were all wrongly put together and the grammar not above reproach. As for the printing that was very queer indeed, with one letter in every five upside down and commas and periods wildly interchanged. But still the printing was printing, and the paper a paper—and not a myth.

"How did she do it? Only the God who inspires women at such times knows. But that day the extra number captured the entire county. When the would-be proprietors of the rival journal came to spy out the land they found Eden so devoted to those two youngsters that the newcomers were all but stoned out of town. And I can tell you that when that whole story leaked out—for it did someway—the townsfolks just raced with each other to put up good silver dollars for the next year's subscription."

"And they lived happily ever after?" said the Caricaturist.

"The woman died a year later," said Mr. Bradley quietly. "You see she wasn't ever rewarded by—by seeing the germ she'd planted grow to be a tree. But—well, you may call her work a failure if you like. It never was heard of beyond the county limits; but to me the poor paper that gave back hope to a hopeless man was the grandest 'Woman's Edition' on record, and the charity that has made all womankind blessed to him was the truest charity."

Miss Aldrich rose flushing. "You are doubtless right," she said with a proud little catch in her voice, "and we newspaper women—our success is merely one of personal ambition. But you must excuse me, for I have an important engagement at one."

Ten minutes later, standing in the cool recesses of the big market and mechanically noting some quite unnecessary information about artichokes and tomatoes, she felt the catch swell almost to a sob. Had he known, had he guessed, she thought, of that glimmering sunsetting in her heart? And had he taken this way to instruct her as to his ideal woman? Indeed, was it not of the wife of his youth that he had spoken with that new look in his eyes? After all, except that he had worked his way from the printer's case, respected and admired from the lowest round of the ladder, how little she had heard of his history in that whirling world of journalism; she was turning to go when some one towered between her and a pile of squashes.

"Miss Aldrich"—it was Mr. Bradley, but not as she had known him. This man had eager eyes and a strangely moved face. "Miss Aldrich," he repeated, as they passed into the refuge of an empty stall. Surely you could not think that my story reflected—that I meant to—that I don't appreciate you. Don't you know that I heard of your self-sacrifice, of the sisters you supported so long, that I admire and believe in your abilities? It was because I thought them meant for something so much better than this grind that I spoke as I did—of my little sister, Mary. You reminded me of her somehow.

"But now you must listen to another story."

But the other story, told in the butter and egg corner of a big market is not for publication. Indeed, it is still "running" in a cottage among the hills of New Jersey; it was in that cottage that Mrs. Bradley wrote the tender sketches from real life that made so much success last year.

But only six people understood why the volume bears the dedication "To the Editor of the First Woman's Edition."

IN HIS GOLF STOCKINGS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HELEN M. WINSLOW.

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I GO first," she said.

"You are always first with me." He leaned on his driver and she looked unconscious. What a magnificent drive she had! There wasn't another girl he knew who could swing a club like her.

Away went the ball, straight toward the last hole. "It's your turn now," she said looking straight into his eyes.

"Millie," he began, "you are always first in my thoughts as you are in heart; I love you."

The girl flushed and turned her eyes away. "We shall be late to lunch if you don't hurry," she said. "Don't spoil the game."

"Lunch be—well, no matter." He threw down his drive. "Millie, you've got to answer this question sooner or later; you've seen it; you knew I loved you; ever since we were children?"—but Millie Thornton was ten yards away hunting for her ball.

"If you say another word," she called back, saucily, "I'll drop the game right where we are; that would be a pity for we are so evenly matched."

Jack Brereton struck viciously at the ball perched exasperatingly on its tee; the sand scattered in all directions and the ball rolled leisurely to one side.

A ripple of laughter floated back on the sharp December air. "It counts," she called and her own lofter skillfully sent her ball flying out of the last hazard.

Another vigorous dive at the ball on the last tee, and Jack Brereton suppressed an unpolished exclamation. There was scarcely any need of it, however, for by this time his opponent was beyond hearing.

"It's of no use!" he muttered to himself. "She's beating me and fairly, too. I'm rattled; but never mind, she's got to answer my question, yet."

"What are you doing back there?" called Millie; "I've only another stroke to go out on. Give up?"

Jack nodded. He might give in this time, but this wasn't the main question. Indeed he intimated as much when she came running back, the game ended, her cheeks glowing and her eyes shining like stars; but she only laughed again and said:

"I'll run you a race for the chocolates?" and she was off like the wind.

Now what was a young man to do? He had tried three times during the past week, since they had all been up at Mrs. Lynch's for her Christmas house party, to talk to her on this subject. She neither rejected nor listened to him. What did it mean? Could there be anybody else? Jack grew savage at the bare idea. Why, he had been devoted to Millie Thornton ever since he wore knickerbockers. Another? He would like to meet him, that's all.

He began to fear his opportunity to behold a rival had come, after all, that evening. At dinner a new face appeared on the scene. What was worse the women seemed to think this tall handsome young Vanderslip, who had recently come into his inheritance of a million or so, was a great acquisition to the party. From the first Jack felt that this well set up fellow with his cool self possession and all his other possessions was a much over-rated young man. When he saw that he was taking Millie Thornton in to dinner, and that the girl seemed completely infatuated with him, he was certain of it.

The evening passed off, after a fashion. The usual flow of conundrums, the stories, the game and the music, all of which it seemed to Brereton were dominated by the young millionaire, failed to interest him. He began to meditate on the easiest way of slipping off to bed without attracting attention from his punctilious hostess. Then some one proposed that the stockings should be hung. Mrs. Lynch decreed that everybody should hang a stocking on the old-fashioned crane in the great fire-place in the hall. Jack Brereton curled his lips. What child's play!

Just then Millie came up to him, for the first time since dinner.

"Jack, I want you to hang up both your golf stockings. Will you?"

Would he? He was off upstairs, two steps at a time. When he came back, Millie smiled at him. "Hang them up on the very outer edge!" she commanded; "you've been so cross and glum this evening."

"Millie! You know the reason?" he began in an earnest undertone. But young Vanderslip had come up on the other side, and Miss Thornton seemed to have eyes and ears for no one else.

"What a fool I was," said Jack in his inner consciousness. "But she can have two pairs of golf stockings if she wants. I don't mind how big a one I am now that I have gone in for making a fool of myself."

He waited until all the other stockings were hung and put his last on the crane. He was not in the mood to notice how funny they all looked, the short, the thick, the thin, the sober, the gay. His was the only pair and they looked the picture of greed. Then he said goodnight to Mrs. Lynch and went to his room. Properly speaking, he should have tossed on his uneasy pillow all night; but Brereton was a healthy, hearty young man and he had played three games of golf in the clear December air that day; and moreover, Mrs. Lynch's pillows were exceptionally easy.

The next morning when he looked out of his window there was a white mantle covering the world. The clouds were breaking and the scene was so beautiful that he jumped out of bed, ashamed to be a laggard in the face of such beauty. He looked at his watch, it was seven o'clock. He thought of his stockings. He would dress and hurry down to the hall. Perhaps he could abstract them before anybody else got down; nobody need know just how big a fool he was.

But when he reached the big fire-place, the long, ugly golf stockings were missing. There were all the others, and stuffed to their utmost capacity, especially the smaller and most slender ones; but his were nowhere. He looked high and low; he searched from mantel-piece to woodbox, from closet to outside door, but his golf stockings had vanished, apparently, from the face of the earth.

"That lets me out;" thought Brereton. "I'll swear I never put them here."

But there was no need of his swearing. Nobody missed them. Jack was puzzled; he was not sure whether any one had noticed him the night before or not. Yes, he had caught a queer expression in Vanderslip's eye, as he turned away from the fire-place, and one of Tom Lynch's cousins had chaffed him about hanging two. What did it mean? He decided to say nothing, nowhere, unless he should be asked, and when, half an hour later the company assembled to take down their stockings and examine them, he wasn't asked. Apparently, nobody noticed that Santa Claus had missed him. As for Millicent Thornton, beyond the coolest of "Good mornings" she ignored his very existence.

Brereton was silent throughout the breakfast. Mrs. Lynch's breakfasts, however, were not matters that even a young man hopelessly in love could easily slight, and he managed to remain at the table as long as was necessary, and with a very good grace.

"Now then," said Mrs. Lynch, just as the meal was over, "we are all going for a sleigh ride. I have ordered the horses for nine o'clock, and we'll go up to the rink and have our lunch there: there is good skating up there, so put on your skating rig."

"I think, Mrs. Lynch," said Brereton, as they rose, "if you'll excuse me I won't go on the ride. I've some letters to write."

"But we shall not excuse you," answered the hostess. "We need all the available young men don't we Miss Thornton?" she added as that young woman swept past.

"O, no," icily replied the girl, "we have Mr. Vanderslip, you know."

This decided him; in half an hour he was at the front door awaiting the appearance of the young ladies. They came, a little late of course, and Millicent Thornton was last of all. He looked up at her as she came down the stairway.

Could he believe his eyes? Were not those his own, his very own golf stockings?

"You two will have to sit on the front seat with the driver," said Mrs. Lynch. "I hope you don't mind."

Mind? Jack Brereton was mean enough to take a deliberate peep as Millie clambered up on the high driver's seat. Then he climbed up beside her.

He turned the subject over in his mind for several moments after they had started; then, the bells drowning out the voices behind and the driver's attention being riveted on the prancing horses, he whispered:

"Millie, what have you been doing with my stockings?"

"Why, Jack, I—I—I've filled them for you. How do you like your Christmas present?"

But he did not dare tell her, not there.

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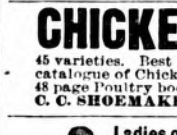


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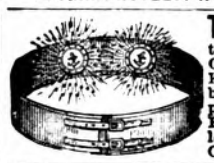
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A QUESTION OF AUTHORITY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY NICHOLAS LAMAR.

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WARDEN Hinkle was not such a fool as he looked. This is not usually received as a compliment by a man, but the warden really needed some such recommendation, for a homelier man never presided over the destinies of four thousand prisoners in a state prison. However, the stupidity of his exterior belied the shrewdness underneath, and the new prison tricks continually cropping out from the four thousand inventive brains were usually analyzed and mastered by him as readily as the multiplicity of tricks already invented.

The warden was absent from his office that day and his deputy was on duty. The door opened and Dr. Howell entered.

"Morning, Mr. Deputy," he said.

Dr. Howell was very young and very confident. Whatever his lack of reputation or ability he was backed by an abundance of political pull, and he had experienced no difficulty in securing the position of assistant physician to the penitentiary over a host of rival candidates.

"Morning," returned the deputy.

"What's this I hear about some cipher notes being taken from the men?" asked the doctor.

The deputy reached into a pigeonhole and after excavating several cigars and a pouch of tobacco procured two fragments of paper. One was a piece of wrapping paper, the other apparently a leaf from a notebook. Unfolding these he smoothed them out on the table.

The first was an absolutely meaningless scrawl covering the sheet in four or five parallel lines. The second was a jumble of phrases and words with no intelligible connection, but suggesting the wandering of a mind incapable of following a thread of thought. Dr. Howell's eye lighted as he glanced over the following:

"Old Satan is hole in pump the Pontine marshes dry when White house is finished till all ladies' honor grows cold let me know marry me of the diadem if what they have me beside the still waters thou done on outside anointest my head with oil verily cup runneth over."

"A clear case of G. P.," he said. "The other seems to be aphasia; the characters are all well made but few of them have any meaning. Very interesting; I must see the men. They will afford some interesting data for the study of mental derangement. Quite a windfall—two cases of mental breakdown in one day. Have they been taken to the asylum?"

The deputy said that he believed not.

"What! Why, they ought to be put under treatment at once," and the doctor started from the room.

"Say!" called the deputy, but the door slammed shut.

Out in the corridor the doctor met one of the captains of the guard. "Jim," he said, "take Blinky Pete and Red O'Hara and put them in ward A at once."

"But Doc I don't think—," began the captain.

"I believe I rank you," said the doctor briefly. "They ought to go into ward B if they are to go to the asylum at all."

"Take them to A."

The guard departed grumbling.

Somewhat later in the day Dr. Howell entered the prison office again. The warden had returned. He glanced up and there was a twinkle in his eye as he recognized his visitor.

"That's a curious case, those two fellows," said the doctor, dropping into a chair and reverting to the lunatics, "both slipping a cog at the same time. Two of the smartest crooks in the country."

"Slipping a what?"

"A cog. Exhibiting symptoms of mental alienation, to adopt a more technical style of speech."

"I had not heard of anything of the kind."

"Didn't you see those two typical epistles that were gathered in to-day? The deputy had them this morning."

"These?" asked the warden, producing the papers in question, and spreading them out as his lieutenant had done before.

"This one," said the doctor, pointing out the wrapping paper specimen, "betrays every characteristic of General Paralysis. If the prison library were as well supplied with technical literature as it should be, I could demonstrate each one of these points by a reference to such authorities as Bucknill and Tuke. For instance: see the shifting thought, scarcely following one thread for any time; see the biblical quotations; notice especially the omission of words evidently intended to be present; observe the reversal of the order of the words; it is extremely interesting and affords a beautiful illustration of the fully developed 'first stage.' 'Old Satan is hole in;' he meant, 'is in hole.' Then a new idea takes possession of him and he talks about pumping the Pontine marshes dry; that is a symptom of delusions of grandure, a sure test for this kind of insanity. His reference to the White house seems to indicate that he thinks it still in course of construction. Then he grows incoherent and talks wildly about ladies' honor, which he confuses with love growing cold, of being married and of a diadem, another delusion of grandure. Finally there is the scriptural quotation which, you will find on referring to any of the authorities, always occurs in anything written by a General Paralytic. You see the word *my* has been left out from the phrase, 'verily my cup runneth over.'"

"What a head you have, doctor," said the warden, admiringly.

"I got it all by reading my books thoroughly. When in doubt consult the authorities," returned the doctor jauntily. "This other one," he went on, picking up the other missive, "is an admirable example of Aphasia. Aphasia is discussed thoroughly by Bucknill and Tuke, who give numerous plates and illustrations; Maudsley has written entertainingly of the malady, and Mercier more recently has put forth a new theory to cover it."

"What is Aphasia?" inquired Warden Hinkle, growing interested.

"It is caused by a lesion in that part of the brain which controls the process of writing. The victim entirely loses the power to form intelligible written characters."

"But these are not unintelligible characters," put in the warden. "The letters are reversed; the lines read from right to left."

"Oh, yes," said the doctor, "I remember a discussion of such a case in my reading somewhere. I believe that the author concluded the patient had been originally lefthanded, and when the aphasic condition came to exist the lateral relations of the two cerebral hemispheres were reversed and the left hand—the one that he had always used—would henceforth write backwards while the right hand painfully wrote forwards——"

"Would the left-handed writing have any meaning if the characters could be deciphered?" interrupted the warden.

"As to that I can't say," replied the doctor. "I have never seen that discussed in my reading; but I believe not."

"Nevertheless, by looking at the reflection of this particular specimen in a mirror, and thereby reversing it, we read it without difficulty."

"Even then," returned the doctor, confidently, "it is very likely nothing more than a meaningless phrase or two, or at best a sentence that he has remembered and copied."

Warden Hinkle leaned back against the wall and regarded the doctor with half closed eyes. "So much for your authorities," he said, sitting forward and snapping his fingers. "Now listen to a few facts. Those two curiosities are cipher communications between two of the shrewdest rogues unhung. Take the paper you call General Paralysis—this one. Underscore the words in groups of three, separated by groups of six, beginning with the word 'hole'. What do you get?"

Old Satan is *hole in pump* the Pontine marshes dry when White *House is finished* till all ladies' honor grows cold *let me know* marry me of the diadem if *what they have* me beside the still waters thou *done on outside* anointest my head with oil verily cup runneth over.

"That is from Blinkey Pete and was found on Red O'Hara. '*Hole in pump house is finished. Let me know what they have done on outside.*' The key to the cipher lay in the last part where he has used too long a quotation from the twenty-third psalm. If it hadn't been for that mistake on his part, I might not have been able to translate it. You see, Blinky has been doing a little excavating at odd moments when no one was near, while O'Hara has been carrying on the negotiations with outsiders who are tunneling in. Your aphasic epistle is his answer. Hold it up before the mirror—so. What do you see?"

"The work on the outside is progressing rapidly, they will break through Tuesday night at evening roll call.'"

"What does it mean?" cried Dr. Howell, dazed by the revelation.

"I had them locked up in separate cells as soon as I understood you had ordered them into the asylum."

"And I had them put in ward A. They can escape from that ward without any trouble. It is already past roll call! Quick!" The doctor rushed out, followed by the warden wearing a grin. In a less homely man the grin would have been called an amused smile.

"If they have got away," panted the doctor, still in the lead and running hurriedly in the direction of the pump house, "it is all my fault. But those were certainly the clearest symptoms of General Paralysis and Aphasia I ever heard about. Why, the authorities——"

"I don't think they have escaped farther than the cellar," said the warden, bringing up the rear. "I had about a barrel of fresh cement poured into their hole this afternoon."

Dr. Howell threw open the door of the pump house. The place was deserted. Over in one corner an open trap door in the floor showed the way to the cellar. Both dropped to their knees and peered down into the black void. The warden reached a lantern hanging nearby and lowered it through the opening. No sound came up from below, but four shining eyes burned in the depths of the darkness.

This the doctor says he can't understand, for, to the best knowledge of the profession, there is lacking in the human eye that peculiar substance which confers upon the animal eye its remarkable reflecting powers. Perhaps he privately believes that it was the consuming fire of insanity.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



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This cart, or long wagon, has a metal floor, and beneath this floor are a number of iron pots filled with burning charcoal. These keep the floor constantly so highly heated that the snow melts as soon as it lands upon it. This metal floor has a gentle slope toward the back of the wagon, to which is attached a tank capable of holding several hundred gallons of water. It may be easily seen that the snow, as soon as it is converted into water by contact with the hot floor, runs down the incline, and falls into the tank at the rear of the wagon. When the tank becomes full the machine is backed up to the nearest sewer, the stopcock in the tank is turned and the water is allowed to run away down the sewer pipe. Then the machine resumes its work. Two or three of these machines would easily fill the place of several hundred men and horses in clearing the city of snow, and the work would be better done and at far less expense than by the old method. The inventor claims that it will, in one hour, clear away as much snow as would cover a street a foot in depth and the extent of a city block.

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—WHEN ORDERING STATE STYLE AND COLOR OF GARMENT WANTED.

Free Samples of Suits, Overcoats and Trousers mailed promptly on application. **AGENTS WANTED.**

THE FAVORITE TAILORS, 283E Monroe St., CHICAGO.

(THE FAVORITE TAILORS ARE THOROUGHLY RELIABLE.—EDITOR.)

Ladies' or Gent's Size



Having recently purchased the entire stock of watches from a bankrupt firm, consisting of solid gold, silver and gold-filled cases, we shall offer a portion of the entire lot at prices never before heard of in the Watch trade. Among the stock are 8,780 AMERICAN STYLE WATCES, in SOLID GOLD-FILLED CASES, which we shall sell singly or by the dozen to private parties or the trade, at the unheard-of LOW PRICE of $3.98 EACH. Each and every watch is guaranteed a perfect timekeeper, and each watch is accompanied with our guarantee for 20 years. Think of it! A genuine American Style Movement watch, in solid gold-filled case, and guaranteed 20 YEARS for $3.98. Those wanting a first-class, reliable time-keeper at about one-third retail price, should order at once. Watch speculators can make money by buying by the dozen to sell. CUT THIS OUT and send to us and we will send a watch to you C. O. D., subject to examination, by express, upon approval. If found perfectly satisfactory, and exactly as represented, pay $3.98 and express charges, and it is yours, otherwise you do not pay one cent Can we make a fairer offer? Be sure to mention whether you want ladies' or gents' size. Price per dozen, $2.00. If full amount, $3.98 is sent with the order, we will include one of our special heavy GOLD FILLED CHAINS, which retails the world over, for $1.00. Satisfaction guaranteed. Address at once,

SAFE WATCH CO., 19 Warren St., NEW YORK.

KOIN MONEY.

It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

The Electro Polishing Cloth. a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.

Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surface. It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

A Bargain Offer to All. We want 20,000 agents to sell these cloths at fairs, campaign meetings, on the street, from house to house, everywhere. You can make $100 a month profit, young and old, both sexes. Sells like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 10 cents for agents' prices and a paid three month's trial subscription to our charming family paper. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will return money if not perfectly satisfied.

SUNSHINE, BOX 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



CHAIRMAN DAY.

CHAIRMAN Day, who was our able Secretary of State during the active days of the Spanish-American War, was made the Chairman of the American Peace Commission to meet the Spanish Commission, for the final arrangements of peace between the two countries, and he is showing the same conservative good judgment and legal ability which distinguished him while in the Cabinet. When we stop to consider that previous to his selection by President McKinley, he was scarcely known of outside the state of Ohio, we realize what a lesson his career is to young Americans and how American manhood is always ready to meet every emergency promptly and quickly. It is doubtful if any other country could produce untried men, who with such comparatively little training, can show such acute statecraft and diplomacy on sudden call.

It will be remembered by the readers of COMFORT that the Peace Commission meets under the terms of the peace protocol which was signed at Washington by Secretary Day on the part of the United States, and by M. Cambon, the Ambassador of France, on behalf of the Kingdom of Spain. By this protocol the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico were to be evacuated at once by the Spanish army and navy forces and quiet possession given to the United States. So far as concerns Porto Rico this was immediately done; so that on October 18th the American flag was raised on all the municipal and State buildings on the island, while all the soldiers and sailors of Spain on that island were embarked on transports for Spain. All reports show that the inhabitants of Porto Rico received our troops with the wildest acclamations of joy. Even the most conservative see that American rule promises the highest material prosperity to the island.

Nothing that has happened in this war has proved so great an object lesson to the Spaniards as the military Governorship of Santiago de Cuba by General Wood, who was appointed by the President to this most important position. Rarely has such executive ability been shown as that of General Wood. When he took possession of Santiago trade was paralyzed, the streets deep with accumulated filth and the very atmosphere reeking with fever and decay. For years the inhabitants had been the prey of mercenary Spanish officers, who had mercilessly and relentlessly robbed and embezzled the moneys which they had collected as taxes and tribute from these people. The ill-advised expenditures combined with dishonesty among the officials made a constantly growing debt and constantly increased deficit in the Treasury.

The advent of the wise military rule of Gen. Wood has entirely revolutionized this state of affairs. Under his energetic rule the streets and houses have been cleansed and purified, so that Santiago is healthier and cleaner than it has been for a couple of centuries; the schools have been opened on American plans; business awakened and revived; important municipal improvements and construction entered into, and withal Gen. Wood after paying all bills from the current Customs receipts is able to announce that he has a comfortable balance of money on hand without having, as yet, resorted to local taxation for funds. We can hardly imagine what a revelation of good government this must be to the Cuban population which has been so many years oppressed by the Spanish system of thieving taxation, so justly called "sucking the orange."

The evacuation of Cuba, however, seems less satisfactory at the present time. It is well known that Gen. Blanco, who is to sail for Spain on the 20th of this month, has never approved of the Spanish government's relinquishing the "Pearl of the Antilles;" and, that rather than to acquiesce in such proceedings he refused the request of the government to serve on the evacuation commission. He, with many other Spanish officers, has a sincere belief that the Spanish soldier is superior to the American; and, that wherever there has been a battle the Spaniards have more than held their own, and that an army of acclimated soldiers superior to the American army, would have rendered the successful holding of the island assured. That such a feeling is rife in Havana cannot be doubted, and founded on this has been an evident reluctance and delay in providing the proper means to leave the island.

So evident did this feeling on the part of the Spanish Commissioners in Cuba become, that much uneasiness was caused both in Havana and Washington, and finally most peremptory



GOVERNOR-ELECT THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

dispatches, insisting that any further delay or indecision would not be tolerated by the American government, were sent by the authorities at Washington. These dispatches, coupled with the apparent intention of the Navy department to comply with Admiral Sampson's desire that American warships might be sent into Havana harbor, evidently have brought about action by the Spanish Commissioners.

At this point the Washington government



GENERAL GRENVILLE M. DODGE.

gave notice that whether or not the island had been evacuated on December 1st, we should take possession and begin our authority on that date. On the other hand it was announced authoritatively from Madrid that the evacuation would not commence nor would Spain relinquish her authority until the definite peace treaty had been signed and ratified. This was such an evident repudiation of the terms of the protocol that it was observed that the usual Spanish policy of deceit and delay had had much to do with the signing of the protocol.

The meetings of the Peace Commission in Paris have been irritating to the last degree. Apparently the Spaniards have believed that President McKinley was unpopular at home; and that his opponents would defeat him in the November elections. They argued that should this happen Spain would receive much more favorable terms than could be obtained now. As a consequence much valuable time was spent by the attempt of the Spaniards to have America assume the "Cuban debt." This debt is held almost entirely by French and Spanish creditors and was caused by the great expenses in putting down Cuban insurrections. The holders of the bonds were guaranteed payment from the Cuban revenues. Any assumption of this debt or a part of it was absolutely refused by the Americans. After many delays the question of the Philippine islands, which, by the terms of the protocol, was to be settled by this Commission, was taken up. The Americans claimed the entire archipelago, but offered an indefinite but fair sum to repay whatever expenses Spain had assumed in actual betterments in the islands, but at the same time refusing to assume any portion of the debts caused by putting down rebellion. This proposition took the Spanish by surprise and a wild howl of indignation went up from that nation. By the direct orders of Madrid the Spanish commissioners refused this offer and entered a strong protest against American aggression and unfairness. This whole step is undoubtedly to cause European sympathy.

The war clouds which so darkly loom in the political horizon of every European nation, however, seem a sure token that no nation will care to enter into any movement looking toward an interference with America. The despatch of the great battleships *Oregon* and *Iowa* to reinforce the fleet under Admiral Dewey at Manila, shows that President McKinley has no idea of relinquishing the islands nor being driven from them by a foe.

During the past month there have been a number of events at home and abroad which are more or less directly connected with the war, and in a measure a part of it; events of surprising interest to our countrymen.

Just before the close of the Omaha exposition the President made a journey to it and spoke to the multitudes of people in every rank of life that thronged to greet him at the stations on the route. From Omaha he went to Chicago, where he attended the celebration of the return of Peace; and later a smaller demonstration in Philadelphia. The intense enthusiasm of the ovation which he received at all points marked the wonderful hold that he has obtained on the American people. His conservative course throughout the whole trouble and the singular judgment and tact he has shown in dealing with every question have been appreciated by the people, and by these popular demonstrations they have endeavored to show something of this loyalty.

As a mark of Mr. McKinley's popularity with the people and how widely it is recognized, it is only necessary to say that neither the opposition press nor party have said a word against him in an excited partisan campaign. Not a single attack or criticism has been made on his course, the only attack being indirect ones aimed at other branches of the government. Considering the freedom of attack in American politics, this is a remarkable record. One of the features of the Presidential tour was the sudden popular outbreak of sentiment in favor of American retention of the Philippines.

The result of the November elections through the Union give the Republicans a large majority which cannot be overturned for at least eight years; while the House of Representatives remains Republican with a reduced majority, mid-administration elections usually set strongly for the opposition so that this result is interpreted as a strong endorsement by the people of the present governmental policy.

Directly allied to the Spanish war has been the remarkable contest for the governorship of the state of New York between Judge Van Wyck nominated by the Democrats and Col. Theodore Roosevelt, who commanded that picturesque band of Rough Riders about which so much has been said. The campaign was carried on with Col. Roosevelt's usual aggressive qualities. Col. Roosevelt is but forty years of age and has been before the public since 1884, when he revolted against the Republican nomination of Mr. Blaine. Since that time he has held many public offices in which he has shown great ability linked with aggressive, independent and often erratic qualities. He is a man of deep convictions and has both strong friends and strong enemies, as is always the lot of aggressive reformers. Many look upon him as the probable nominee for the Presidency after Mr. McKinley's second term, which now is generally conceded everywhere. Col. Roosevelt is a man of unmistakably bright prospects.

The campaign in New York state was one of the most fiercely fought for years and remained in doubt until the vote was counted. It became a fierce fight toward the end between Col. Roosevelt and "Boss" Croker and the Tammany organization. Many think the injudicious words of Croker had great effect in pushing the independents for Roosevelt.

In the recent general elections were many war heroes, who were nominated by one party



SECRETARY OF STATE HAY.

or the other from their supposed ability to draw votes with a "war record." As a general thing, however, it has been found that there has been little glamour attached. By the sending of Secretary Day to Paris, Col. John Hay has become Secretary of State. Col. Hay has been in public life many years and was selected as ambassador to Great Britain by the present administration where he was serving when promoted to his present position. His great success in the diplomatic field in other positions gives assurance of a successful and satisfactory record as American Premier.

Notwithstanding newspaper comment and abusive criticism from "yellow journals," the commission investigating the war has continued its labors and seems, from an unbiased point of view, to be making a fair and impartial examination. Gen. Dodge, the chairman, has apparently done everything to get at the evidence and will make an interesting report. Readers of COMFORT should not be misled. "Yellow" papers made exaggerated and sensational reports, which cannot be proven. After rousing the whole nation, the same papers are now discounting the natural outcome of the evidence which has been given by saying that the commission is to "Whitewash" every one. The sensational and irresponsible papers that have published startling and exaggerated reports that have worried millions of women whose friends and relatives were with the army, have been a curse and a menace, which we could well have spared in this struggle.
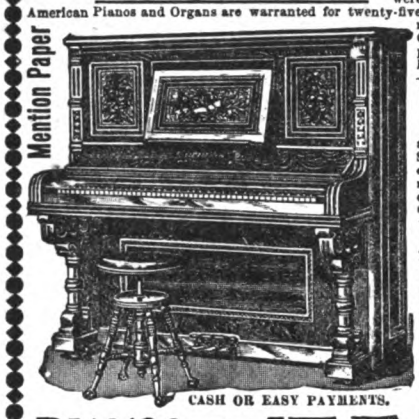
THE CELEBRATED CORNISH AMERICAN PIANOS AND ORGANS.

ONE YEAR'S FREE TRIAL

WE WILL SHIP A PIANO OR ORGAN ANYWHERE UPON THE DISTINCT UNDERSTANDING THAT IF IT IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO PURCHASER AFTER TWELVE MONTHS' USE, WE WILL TAKE IT BACK.

It would be impossible for us to make public this unique CORNISH PLAN of doing business were it not backed up by the strongest evidence of our absolute responsibility. The Cornish American Pianos and Organs are warranted for twenty-five years, and with every warrant there is our personal guarantee endorsed by a business reputation of nearly fifty years, and plant and property worth over One Million Dollars. Our success in the past has been mainly owing to the confidence placed in us by the public, and we have a quarter of a million satisfied patrons bearing testimony to the honesty of our methods and the perfection of the Cornish American Pianos and Organs.

Mention Paper.



CASH OR EASY PAYMENTS.

PIANOS FROM 155 DOLLARS COMPLETE WITH ALL LATEST MUSICAL ATTACHMENTS

FOR FULL PARTICULARS OF THE WORLD FAMOUS CORNISH PLAN and for a complete description of the instruments made by us, see OUR NEW SOUVENIR CATALOGUE for 1899, handsomely illustrated in colors. The most comprehensive musical catalogue in the trade. The frontispiece is a masterly reproduction in fac-simile of an interesting oil painting, designed and executed for us by an eminent artist, representing "AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CHOIR AT EARLY TEMPLE SERVICE." This beautiful catalogue is sent FREE CHARGES PREPAID, and we also include our novel reference book, "THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE." CATALOGUE, BOOK AND OUR LATEST SPECIAL OFFERS FREE.

REMEMBER that a prompt response to this advertisement will secure a DISCOUNT of $10.00 on the list prices as quoted in our 1899 Catalogue on any CORNISH ORGAN or $20.00 on the list prices if you buy a CORNISH PIANO.

REFERENCES. Our bank, your bank, any bank, or any of the multitude of patrons who have purchased millions of dollars worth of instruments from us during the past fifty years.

Send for particulars of our popular co-partnership plan, by means of which a Cornish American Piano or Organ can be secured absolutely FREE.

Mention Paper.



ORGANS FROM 29 DOLLARS CASH OR EASY PAYMENTS

CORNISH & CO., (Est'd nearly 50 years.) WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY.

MAKERS OF HIGH-GRADE AMERICAN PIANOS AND ORGANS.

Free to our Readers.—The New Cure for Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, etc.

As stated in our last issue the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, is proving a wonderful curative in all diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disordered action of the Kidneys and urinary organs. The *New York World* publishes the remarkable case of Rev. A. C. Darling, minister of the gospel at North Constantia, New York, cured by Alkavis, when, as he says himself, he had lost faith in man and medicine, and was preparing himself for certain death. Similar testimony to this wonderful new remedy comes from others, including many ladies suffering from disorders peculiar to womanhood. The Church Kidney Cure Co., of No. 409 Fourth Avenue, New York, who so far are its only importers, are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of COMFORT who is a Sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, difficult or too frequent passing water, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the Company, and receive the Alkavis free. To prove its wonderful curative powers, it is sent to you entirely free.

A WET UMBRELLA

is a bad thing for your own or your friend's front **Hall.** We have a cute device with ring for holding any umbrella, and nice japanned iron cup to catch the water, and it can be placed entirely out of the way in any entry or hall. It does not take up any room and will always be a pleasure to you. You will surely want another to present to some friend when you have seen one. Send only 22 cents and we send one all charges paid. Try it and you will buy another. Address, SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

Courtplaster is very useful in protecting small cuts or scratches but should not be used over any considerable cut or wound in the process of healing.

Drunkenness Cured.

It is now Within the Reach of Every Woman to Save the Drunkard.

A TRIAL PACKAGE OF THIS MARVELOUS HOME REMEDY MAILED FREE TO ALL WHO WRITE FOR IT.

Can be Given in Tea, Coffee or Food, Thus Absolutely and Secretly Curing the Patient in a Short Time Without His Knowledge.

There is a cure for Drunkenness that has shed a radiance into thousands of hitherto desolate firesides. It does its work so silently and surely that while the devoted wife, sister or daughter looks on, the drunkard is reclaimed even against his will and without his knowledge or co-operation. The discoverer of this grand remedy, Dr. Haines, will send a sample of the remedy free to all who will write for it. Enough of the remedy is mailed free to show how it is used in tea, coffee or food and that it will cure the dreaded habit quietly and permanently. Upon application to Dr. J. W. Haines, 668 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, O., he will mail a free sample of the remedy to you, securely sealed in a plain wrapper, also full directions how to use it, books and testimonials from hundreds who have been cured, and everything needed to aid you in saving those near and dear to you from a life of degradation and ultimate poverty and disgrace.

Send for a free trial to-day. It will brighten the rest of your life.

WANTED.—Ladies and gentlemen to do bronze tracing for us at their homes. No experience in designing required. We furnish outline cards free and pay cash for your work. 20 to 50 cents an hour easily made. Particulars free. OHIO ART SIGN CO., Lima, Ohio.

WANTED GENERAL AND LOCAL AGENTS EVERYWHERE to sell our strictly new and only patented drinking glass. Send $2.00 for trial dozen and fifteen sample styles with printed matter. BELDEN GLASS CO., JACKSON, MICH.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

C. D. Jones,	$3.00
Bettie Cox,	2.50
M. S. Burrage,	2.00
Alice E. Greenleaf,	1.50
Nina Viola Fiske,	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Our own sweet singer, Longfellow, says:

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play;
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

"The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail:" yes, but to bring about this happy state of things we must, each one of us, do our part by personally keeping "peace on earth, good-will to men." Let us all, with this Christmas, redouble our efforts so to do.

"*Doing God's* will as if it were my own,
Yet trusting not in mine, but in his strength alone."

Our first letter this month is from far-away Tacoma, Washington, and gives us a vivid picture of the daily life of the Alaskan Indian.

"September to a dweller in northern Washington means that the hop season has begun, and as one looks across the waters of Puget Sound he may see the Alaskan Indians in their staunch canoes making their way to our shores to help with the hop picking. Some of them come even from Glacier Bay, a thousand miles to the north.

"All along the pan handle or southwestern part of Alaska, the shore is fringed with islands and peninsulas. Here dwell several tribes of Indians who are fishermen and whose whole life, save the short time of the hop picking, is spent upon the sea. The mountains rise like a huge wall behind them and dip their bases into the ocean, leaving no wide coastal plain to invite agriculture. Thus the Indian is forced to get his whole living from the sea. In the winter he builds his permanent village near the halibut banks but each family owns its own salmon stream which is as valued a heritage as



THE MOUNTAINS RISE LIKE A HUGE WALL BEHIND THEM.

the preserves of Merrie England, and as closely guarded against poachers.

"Not only does the Indian change his residence for the halibut and salmon fishing but a third time does he set up housekeeping, this time for the oulachan fishing. The oulachan is the most valuable fish to the native. It is one of the delicacies of the coast. About six inches long and an inch in diameter, nearly round, it is not unlike a candle in shape, and as it contains so much oil that it will burn when lighted it is called the candle fish. The oil is used as sauce in winter. During the summer the Alaskan gets in his supply of salmon. The rivers fairly teem with the fish, sometimes as many as ten thousand being taken at one cast of the seine. On their own streams the Indians usually spear the salmon or catch them in nets. Herring are so plentiful they are raked out with wooden rakes. All the surplus fish is carried to the canners along the coast where many of the Indians are employed by the white men in cleaning and packing the fish.

"But the halibut fishing is the most interesting of the natives' occupations. Their line is the giant kelp, a kind of sea-weed, which often grows to a length of three hundred feet. When soaked, bleached and stretched it becomes a strong, pliable cord. The hook, a foot long, is cut from the heart of spruce or cedar roots. With these crude implements the Alaskan Indian laughs at the white man's equipment.

"The Indian's canoe is his pride and greatest care. For it he chooses the best spruce or yellow cedar. He shapes the outside with wedges and sledge hammers, then through the long dark winter he patiently cuts out the inside. The hollow is then partly filled with water in which are placed stones heated red hot. This causes steam to rise making the wood more pliable so that stretchers can be forced in until the canoe takes the desired shape. The outside is then rubbed with a shark's skin to smooth it. The canoe is propelled most skillfully by a paddle or is sailed by means of a sail of woven cedar bark.

"Owing to the constant use of the arms and upper part of the body the Alaskan Indian is well developed in those parts of the body while the lower limbs are small and weak, making them poor travelers on land though they have lately been used as pack-carriers by the gold seekers and adventurers in Alaska. They are a bold, hardy, sea-faring people. No journey is too long to be attempted in the staunch little crafts, and as they come gliding over the water of the sound, they seem like the remnant of a foregone century and one cannot but hope that in their contact with civilization here in our Washington they may still retain their primitive simplicity." C. D. JONES, Tacoma, Wash.

Our next letter is a very interesting account of the quaint settlement of New Austria, Kentucky.

"About five miles southwest of Junction City lies a German settlement, by the name of New Austria. It is reached by a rough road whose intricate windings, among the thickly wooded hills would lose any one but a person well acquainted with the place. The few houses are so far apart and so nearly surrounded by large trees and a thick growth of underbrush that a stranger would never realize that the place was settled.

"When the trees put forth their leaves the steep hillsides become very dark and cool; delicate ferns spring up, often growing over a foot high; the squirrels live, unmolested; and the palatable oapaw (the banana of Kentucky) and wild grape grow in abundance. These wild fruits are hunted by the German children, who seem to have no fear of the rattlesnakes, which are quite numerous.

"Each German has cleared a small piece of ground, and, where many an American would starve, he contrives to lay by a snug sum. Their vineyards are their pride and each year a great quantity of grape wine is made. These hospitable people seldom fail to offer the guest the sparkling glass. They have a very peculiar manner of eating; a large bowl, containing one kind of food, is placed in the center of a table and from this the entire family eats with spoons. If they have a



A HOUSE IN NEW AUSTRIA.

visitor, he is placed at one end of the table and provided with all the things ordinarily seen on the American table, while the family, with their one bowl, occupies the other half of the table. Some of the families, however, have adopted the American manner of eating.

"Their church is cared for by a highly-educated old German who speaks several languages fluently. He plays the organ which is kept upstairs; and he also has the priest's robes, which were brought over from the Old Country, and are very costly and beautiful.

"The schoolhouse is situated at the head of a hollow and the trees grow nearly to the door. The majority of the families speak the German language at home, so that when the little tots first attend the five months' school one of the older pupils must act as interpreter between them and the instructor.

"The accompanying cut shows a typical home in this unique little village. The house is built directly against the hill behind it, which thus forms its rear wall. The rock foundation is nearly as high as the house itself and forms the wine cellar. This is pierced with holes or slits for ventilation. A small porch adorns the house.

"In the foreground is a large stump, which, when a tree, was hollow, and in which its owner lived before he built this house. The hill behind the house is so very steep that it has been laid off in terraces for convenience in cultivation."

BETTIE COX, Junction City, Kentucky.

Our next letter introduces a new cousin—a Swiss boy of sixteen. He was born in Switzerland, he tells me, but has been for several years in this country. He says:

"Switzerland, like all European countries, besides the splendid mountain scenery is noted for its villages. It is well known that Switzerland in the inhabited regions holds an immense population. The farmers, instead of living in the country on their respective farms, gather into villages which are surrounded by their farms. Each farm contains from three to twenty acres, which are staked off, as fences take too much room. Nearly all houses apart from the villages are manor houses or halls occupied by some well-to-do landholder, while on the farms adjoining are the broad, low roofed houses tenanted by the poor class of people dependent upon the owner of the land for a living, happy to receive from fifteen to fifty cents a day.

"The town of Neider Scherli is six miles southeast of Berne on the large stage road leading from Berne to Schwarzenburg. This road, like nearly all Swiss roads, is graveled. Not unfrequently when traveling along the road will one find stone and gravel quarries with a keeper to repair the road. But for foreigners the traveling is a little rough, as on the smaller roads the stones are not very finely crushed. Neider Scherli is a typical Swiss village with few houses surrounded by gardens and orchards and with a very few streets. The houses are all large, and the projecting roof forms the veranda. A little beyond and below the village flows the Sherli Bach, a small creek which at the road widens into a mill pond flanked by a saw mill on the north and tannery on the south, while beyond the road to the west is the mill with her thundering water wheel. The creek or ravine is crossed by a massive stone bridge consisting of three arches.

"To the north of the creek and east of the village rises the towering Halten Hill, which gives a splendid view of the lower Sense valley and the city of Berne. A few rods below, on the slope, lies Ober Scherli, nearly eight hundred feet above Neider Scherli. Ober Scherli is a small village of farmers. On all houses the stables are attached to the dwelling. No barns exist separately in the rural parts of Switzerland. The dwelling rooms and stables are always under the same roof."

JOHN G. HANNA, Berne, Ind.

Our St. Lawrence cousin, with the following vivid description of northern ice-cutting, takes me back to "the scenes of my childhood," so "dear to the heart."

"Will those readers of COMFORT who never see snow or ice-cutting imagine themselves with me on the banks of our noble St. Lawrence river, and watch the men and teams employed in gathering in the 'ice-harvest.'

"The first thing necessary is to get a permit to cut; then the space applied for must be fenced around to avoid accidents; snow ploughs remove all snow, and then a machine something like a harrow is run over the ice to mark it off in blocks, and then begins the real work of cutting it out, putting it on to sleighs, and hauling away to the ice-houses. The cutting is all done by hand. Men stand on the ice, and cut up and down just as we used to see planks cut. It does not seem to be heavy work, but is severe in cold weather, and none dare attempt it who are not warmly clad. The cutters always work up stream, and as each



ICE-CUTTING.

block breaks away it floats down to where the teams are waiting for their loads. Here men are stationed who arrest the floating blocks, dragging them by means of boat hooks on to wooden slides so placed that the block can be easily shifted on to the sleigh that stands in place ready for its load. So expert are the cutters and handlers, and so exact is the system pursued that the work goes on with the regularity of clockwork.

"Thousands of men and horses are employed in this work, which begins as soon as the ice is of sufficient thickness. The 'first crop', as it is called, is considered the best, although the quality depends entirely on the weather. Clear, cold weather with but little snow gives ice so clear that you can easily see through a three foot block. This ice lasts well, does not melt quickly, and is the delight of the housekeeper. Irregular weather with snow, gives whiter, thicker ice, that turns back to water far too readily for economy."

M. S. B., Montreal, Canada.

Our last prize letter for this month takes us down into the sunny land of Florida, and shows us a bit of Fernandina life.

"Fernandina, Florida, is divided, by a strip of marsh and wood, into 'New Town' and 'Old Town'. The former residents were Spaniards. Now New Town is quite thickly populated, while Old Town consists of about fifty houses that are mostly occupied by blacks, who so enjoy a dance without music or a chance to wear a cast-off dress that a white person might easily see the hidden meaning of the phrase, 'Contentment is a precious boon.'

"The business is all done at New Town, which is reached by a foot bridge about five feet wide, over the marsh, and by a carriage road through the sands and woods.

"The roads around New Town are covered with oyster shells that make excellent driveways when well ground. Those of Old Town do not need to be shelled, as all the streets are covered with a short grass kept green the whole year by the dampness from the Amelia river, which flows by, and kept short by the horses and cows which are allowed to run at will with the goats, hens, geese, and a few pigs. If it were not for these animals it would be a beautiful spot.

"We arrived at Fernandina in October. Everything out of doors was beautiful, as there had been no frosts. We thought winter would surely begin by December, but not much cold weather troubled us until one morning in January, when we awoke to find the pump on a south piazza refusing to work, and ice in the barrel of rain water at the corner of the house. A cold wind blew for several days, and then we had no more winter until the first ten days of March, when it was cold, windy, and rainy. If the houses were built as they are in Rhode Island, no one would suffer from cold; but the people here only think of summer when building; repairs are seldom made, many houses are without paint, and many things look as if Old Town would soon be a thing of the past. New Town is a growing place."

NINA VIOLA FISKE, Olneyville, R. I.

The following hints for a "Heart Party" I give the cousins this month, instead of waiting until February, in order that they may, if they wish, profit by them in their preparations for Saint Valentine's Day.



FOR the benefit of Aunt Minerva's readers I send these suggestions for a 'Heart Party' for St. Valentine's Day. In nearly all respects it is a description of one which I attended last year.

"A Heart Party could be easily carried out as follows: The invitations should be the regulation small card enclosed in envelope to match, and should have the word 'Hearts' in the lower left hand corner. Nearly every one is familiar with the game of Hearts played with cards, and this certainly would be a most suitable game for a Heart Party.

"Score cards could be made of white water-color paper in the form of a heart, and have a small water-color sketch or drawing—either a view, or flower—on one side, and a quotation on the other. Many quotations can be found which will be ap-



SCENE IN FERNANDINA.

propriate, for instance: 'In the game of Life, hearts are trumps,' or 'Two hearts that beat as one,' etc. Tie a pink ribbon in each score card and use tiny heart shaped seals for counters. These make delightful and fitting souvenirs of the occasion. The first prize can be a dainty heart shaped dish, silver heart stick pin, or any of the numerous heart shaped toilet articles can be used. Two large red paper hearts pierced with a gold arrow can be a 'Booby' prize. On each of the tables dishes of candies can be placed, and if the rather old-fashioned Motto candies are in them with their ridiculous mottoes, much merriment can be caused.

"The hostess might dress to represent the Queen of Hearts. One young lady at a Valentine Party recently wore a black lace dress on which were sewed innumerable red hearts made of paper. On the skirt she sewed them in rows, and on the waist there was a line of them down the right side, and one larger red heart pierced with a gold arrow (made of gilt paper) was on the left side near the arm, while a gold heart was fastened in the knot of each bow of her neck ribbon and belt ribbon, which were a bright scarlet. On the sleeves red hearts were sewed to the lace. In her hair was a red heart and gold arrow similar to the one on the waist. She carried a red silk handkerchief and red fan.

"If a lunch is served from the dining-table a center piece of forget-me-nots in the form of a heart would be charming. Pink satin ribbons should be drawn from each corner of the table to the chandelier over the center of the table. A red or pink rose with its long stem and green leaves could be at each plate while the name cards should be in the form of a heart. Sandwiches can be cut in the shape of hearts and fancy cakes made heart shaped. The ices should be pink and heart shaped.

ALICE E. GREENLEAF, Bath, Maine.

Now I have a few letters which, for various reasons, I cannot use. I have enjoyed them myself, and hope their authors will send me others which I shall be able to publish. The first one is from a cousin in Texas who has often written for us. The subject, unfortunately, was a visit to one of the soldiers' camps which were so plentiful and so interesting a few months ago, but are now "a thing of the past." I did not receive the letter in time to use it in any of the previous numbers of the paper. Then I have a dear little story written by a ten-year-old girl from Providence, R. I. It was exceedingly well done, but as we do not tell stories on this page I cannot use it.

Gertie Mills sends me a description of a lively bicycle ride, but, you see, Gertie, we all ride wheels and we all have had just such lovely good times, so I must ask you to try me again with another letter. Another Brooklyn cousin has sent me some Easter verses which were intended for last Easter, but reached me far too late. Besides, I suppose I shall have to confess it, Aunt Minerva's page is not intended for poetry; so, Leonie, dear, I shall have to thank you for the verses and keep them for myself.

And now I must stop for this month, for my space is full; so wishing you all a merry Christmas I will say good-by. AUNT MINERVA.

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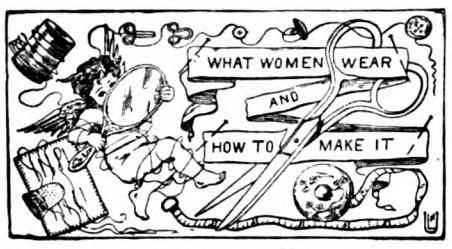
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EVERY one knows it costs from 25c. to a dollar to buy a cloth doll body at the stores, without even a head, to say nothing of the expense of a nice indestructible doll. Every child delights to have from one to twenty different kinds of dolls in their family. Bright inventors, artists, and mechanics have been at work for years trying to perfect low-price, jointed indestructible dolls that can be made to sit down, bend over, stand on their heads, move arms and legs, and be placed in all sorts of cute positions, either when dressed or undressed. The doll shown in cut, *just patented*, is a most wonderful and successful result of long, weary trials. They are beautifully finished, and *being jointed*, can be placed in any natural position. Will last for years. Are more *life like* than anything ever gotten out before. Best of all, they are sold cheap, as you can fill with bran, sawdust, or cotton, and easily sew them up. As they are not on sale at the stores we will mail one, all charges paid, if you send 12c. now for a 3 months' subscription to "COMFORT," the PRIZE STORY MAGAZINE, with the largest circulation of any monthly in the world; or send 15c., and we also include a cute little Pug Dog pup. Over a million of the articles will be sold the next few months, and we give you the chance to get samples early and make money taking orders.

Two 15c. lots for 25c., 5 for 50c. Order a dozen Dolls and 4 Pugs for one dollar. Just the thing for church fairs and the like.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE north wind doth blow" in dead earnest and drives us all into providing ourselves with some sort of warm garment to protect us from its chill blast. Those who can afford the luxury of fur-lined wraps are to be envied for nothing else answers the purpose. Certainly there is no form of winter cloak to compare with a fur-lined cape of either cloth or silk, for elderly women who feel the cold, since they admit of bundling underneath to one's heart's content. Fur-lined driving coats, reaching to the feet, built in Russian style, half-fitting, and provided with a huge storm collar of fur, are this winter considered a necessary adjunct to the wardrobe of every fashionable woman. Very nobby are the short coats, reaching just over the hips, built of light tan or gray melton, showing a deep facing of fur at the front edge, giving the appearance of being lined with fur. Deep revers of fur, a wide collar and generous cuffs complete these comfortable and modish garments intended for the wear of young women. In spite of the furore over the advent of the long coat, the short jacket still holds strongly in favor, and even shorter than ever, at that. Sleeves show no marked change, the only variation being the darts set in at the shoulder instead of pleats or gathers, meaning simply, the pleats inverted and cut out.

Some of the new sealskins show a tendency to a slight flare at the wrist indicating a revival of the flowing sleeve, handly a suitable fashion for a fur coat.

Dress sleeves continue long over the hand, and all sorts of soft trimmings are applied as a finish. On the newest gowns there is no fullness at all at the shoulder, the necessary breadth being attained by the application of soft folds, etc.

Turning once more to the subject of coats, a sketch is given here of one of the newest short jackets. The front, in shield shape, is immensely becoming to the figure, while the soft, folded silk belt adds a jaunty air, though this may be left off at will. A boa of silver fox, the entire animal, with its little furry legs and all, is considered the acme of elegance, costing a pretty penny too, though the style may be copied in a cheaper fur. A smart little hat of pinkish violet velvet, draped over a wire frame, and fitting the head softly, has for its decoration gray and black speckled breasts with, in the center, a glittering steel buckle holding them together. Almost without exception all hats flare off the face. Of course I refer to dress hats. Those worn over the face are soft felts, Alpines, etc. All sorts of breasts of birds are called into service to trim our winter millinery since flat trimmings are pre-eminently the vogue. I have in mind a round hat made of deep purple velvet arranged in severe folds as to the brim, and having a soft crown encircled with breasts of speckled chickens; at one side a big bunch of deep purple violets reared themselves smartly.

Skirts are still clinging with even a more decided flare at the skirt than formerly. This effect is more easily obtained by the addition of a circular flounce, than by attempting to cut it all in one. A good model is shown here, which would not be too difficult to handle satisfactorily. The upper portion fits in sheath fashion, closing at the left side with velvet-covered buttons as fasteners. The flounce is applied in curved fashion, headed by a strap, band of stitching, rows of velvet ribbon, or any of the smart, flat braids so much in vogue. It is a drop skirt, with a silk underskirt, which fact adds greatly to its grace.



As an extreme to last summer's modes, the flounce, instead of curving upward at the back, being consequently higher than in front, slopes downward, the deep part being in front, adding greatly to the graceful outlines.

The guimpe still holds its sway as a part of the up-to-date bodice, though seen in a variety of new forms, the favorite being the square opening, or the oblong. A novel bodice is set forth here, calling into play several new fea-



tures of modistic art, among them the tops of the small sleeves being made to match the guimpe in material—lace, in this case being used. The body of the gown is a soft shade of smoke gray poplin velours, the skirt severely plain except for the rows of velvet-covered buttons closing it at the top of the back. The round bodice is fitted smoothly, drawn in to the figure by means of gathers at both front and back, and finished at the waist by a soft belt of gray silk drawn into a silver buckle. The breast of the bodice has two clusters of tucks, set an even distance apart, the upper portion of the sleeves being decorated in a similar manner. A hollowed-out guimpe of Honiton lace fits snugly across the shoulders, the square space being filled in by tucks of rose pink silk, with stock to match, having a pretty finish under the ears consisting of points of the lace. A stylish accessory to a simple tailor gown, if a dressy effect is required, is a cravat in exaggerated size, of any bright shade of velvet, the stock having a flaring collar of fur attached. A muff to match usually accompanies the little piece of smartness.

Shirt waists for winter wear appear once more in velvet, both plain and plaid, in all colors, the more brilliant being preferred. Pretty and useful ones of cloth are in cadet blue and flaming scarlet.

Quite the most modish thing in the way of belts is the scarf of soft Roman silk crushed about the waist, clasped with exquisitely carved and jeweled buckles.

The dog collar grows daily more and more in favor; a favorite style has the broad band made to fit the neck perfectly, of black velvet, upon which are sewn, at regular intervals, Parisian ornaments set with turquoise. Another pretty collar of black has strings of pearls



fitted to it, with a rhinestone clasp in the center. There is no more becoming, nor no smarter finish to a gown than these collars.

The newest in veils are shades of green and a rather bright blue; the weave is a revival of the old "sewing-silk" veil our grandmothers used to wear.

Chinchilla is a favorite fur this winter, and I am going to tell you a little secret of the furrier's art, by means of which you may keep your chinchilla collar or muff as fresh looking as the day you bought it. When the fur becomes solid and yellow as it does as soon as wet, just get some nice white sand, put it in a clean dish of large size, heat it *hot*, run your soiled fur through it several times and you will have a seemingly new garment.

Farmers' Alliance.

To the Members of the Farmers' Alliance & Industrial Union: I have made a careful investigation from the best sources of reliable information about the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co's Remedies, and found that they were giving good satisfaction. I therefore deem it but an act of simple justice to our members to say, that I believe that the claims made by the Company for their remedies will be fully realized by those who will give them a fair and reasonable trial. Yours fraternally, Jno. C. Hanley, Business Agt. F. A. & I. U.

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Troy Laundry blue with each package PAAS FABRIC DYES. Strongest, Brightest: GUARANTEED fast to sun, air, and washing. NEW PROCESS; no streaks or spots, dust or dirt. NO EXPERIENCE needed. Choice of 40 colors, full standard shades, and gt. blue, 10c.; 3 pkgs., 25c.; 6 for 40c. Dyes for wool & silk, or cotton & mixed goods; state kind. Catalogue free. Agents wanted.
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A Leaky Faucet.



IT would be very interesting also surprising to many people if they could figure out how much water was lost by the leaking of a faucet from which the water escapes in drops. A chemist, who measured exactly the amount of waste, found that about 50 drops fell in a minute; In 90 minutes there would fall 4,500 drops of water, which is equivalent to a quart, so that there would be a loss of four gallons of water every 24 hours. In a year almost 1,500 gallons of water would be wasted uselessly from such a faucet.

It is quite well known that leaky faucets are quite common, and it therefore, from the above estimation, becomes apparent of the great amount of water wasted yearly.

From a Snail to Electricity.



THAT is quite a jump, and between the two extremes are some interesting figures.

A snail moves one-half inch per second; a man walking, four feet; a snow-shoer, ten feet; the current of a rapid river, thirteen feet; a fast runner, twenty-three feet; a fly, twenty-four feet; a fast steamer, twenty-seven feet; a bicycler, thirty-one feet; a stiff breeze, thirty-two feet; a good skater, thirty-eight feet; a race horse, forty-one feet; a mountain torrent, forty-seven feet; an express train, fifty-four feet; ocean waves, seventy feet; swallows, two-hundred twenty feet; sound in the air, one thousand ninety-five feet; the surface of the globe at sea-level, on the equator, fifteen hundred feet; a cannon ball, sixteen hundred twenty-five feet; the moon, thirty-two hundred feet.

The young Queen of Holland is very enthusiastic about Horticulture. Her favorite flower is, naturally, the tulip.

CATARRH OF THE STOMACH.

A Pleasant, Simple, but Safe and Effectual Cure for it.

Catarrh of the stomach has long been considered the next thing to incurable. The usual symptoms are a full or bloating sensation after eating, accompanied sometimes with sour or watery risings, a formation of gases, causing pressure on the heart and lungs, and difficult breathing; headaches, fickle appetite, nervousness and a general played out, languid feeling.

There is often a foul taste in the mouth, coated tongue and if the interior of the stomach could be seen it would show a slimy inflamed condition.

The cure for this common and obstinate trouble is found in a treatment which causes the food to be readily, thoroughly digested before it has time to ferment and irritate the delicate mucous surfaces of the stomach. To secure a prompt and healthy digestion is the one necessary thing to do and when normal digestion is secured the catarrhal condition will have disappeared.

According to Dr. Harlandson the safest and best treatment is to use after each meal a tablet composed of Diastase, Aseptic Pepsin, a little Nux, Golden Seal and fruit acids. These tablets can now be found at all drug stores under the name of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets and not being a patent medicine can be used with perfect safety and assurance that healthy appetite and thorough digestion will follow their regular use after meals.

Mr. N. J. Booher of 2710 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., writes: "Catarrh is a local condition, resulting from a neglected cold in the head, whereby the lining membrane of the nose becomes inflamed and the poisonous discharge therefrom passing backward into the throat, reaches the stomach, thus producing catarrh of the stomach. Medical authorities prescribed for me for three years for catarrh of stomach without cure; but today I am the happiest of men after using only one box of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. I cannot find appropriate words to express my good feeling. I have found flesh, appetite and sound rest from their use."

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is the safest preparation as well as the simplest and most convenient remedy for any form of indigestion, catarrh of stomach, biliousness, sour stomach, heartburn and bloating after meals.

Send for little book mailed free on stomach troubles, by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich. The tablets can be found at all drug stores.

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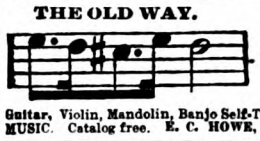
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BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS
FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin that are just what ladies want for crazy patch-work. We were fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special PANIC PACKAGES to any one sending 10c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, the Prize Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant piece of SILK PLUSH contain 36 square inches, together with five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; three 25c. lots for 65c., five for $1.00.



A Cute Foot-Rest
FREE.

Useful Ornaments are sought after at all seasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of goods that are sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could never be obtained at a low price before (they sell for $1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out by machines in pretty colored durable goods, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be **welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California.** It comes in the shape of a handsome Spaniel *Bow-Wow*, lying down, size about 8x12 inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not in use by grandma or yourself or company as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is so life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, **57,396** have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find them great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start with.

BIG OFFER. We will send a sample postpaid to anyone sending 13c., for a three months' subscription to this paper. Two Rests and this paper 6 months for 25c.; five for 50c.; one dozen, $1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants 20c.; one Rest and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c.

Address COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 133, Augusta, Maine.

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50c. to $4.00 per 100 Paid for used or cancelled U. S. postage stamps of the sorts used today. Higher prices paid for old stamps. Here is a chance where any person can actually earn money easily, gathering used stamps. Send 10 cents for price list, so you can begin collecting stamps and selling them without delay.
RELIABLE STAMP CO., Dept. C 168 Elm St., New York City.

Remnants of Silk Ribbons.



We have purchased at recent wholesale auction sale several large lots of Remnants of Silk Ribbons, at prices which will enable our lady customers to secure splendid bargains. These remnants are all from one to two and three yards in length, and many of them are the finest quality of Ribbons in the market, of different widths, in a variety of fashionable shades, in fact, nearly all colors are represented; also different kinds of Ribbons adapted for bonnet-strings, neckwear, trimmings for hats and dresses, bows, scarfs, etc., etc. No lady can purchase such fine Ribbons as these at any store in the land for many times our price, so that the bargains offered by us should be taken advantage of by our customers. Our stock of Silk Ribbons from which we put up these 28 cents packages consists of Crown Edge, Gros Grain, Moire, Picot Edge, Silk Brocade, striped Ottoman, and various other styles of Plain and Fancy Silk Ribbons suited to the wants of our lady friends. We put up carefully-assorted packages of Silk Ribbons, no remnants less than one yard long and all first-class, useful goods. One package for 28 cents with subscription, 3 for 75 cents, or one dozen packages, $2.50. Carefully packed and sent by mail, postpaid upon receipt of price.

Whether you have one or three packages we give in addition a six months' trial subscription; when you send for a dozen you receive them in addition to a whole year's subscription to this paper. They are our special premiums sent with the paper.

SPECIAL OFFER. We want you to get up a club and will send you a package of these ribbons when you send us two subscribers at the yearly trial price of 25 cents each; or, send us a club of six yearly subscribers at the spcial price of 25 cents each, and we will send six packages to you free.

Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE season is so near at hand for the exchange of Christmas gifts, that doubtless all our readers are already prepared for it, but on the chance of its finding some one unprepared, we give herewith a description of some easily and quickly made articles which may be just what some one has been waiting for.

The medicine glass cover seems to be a new thing—at least it is so to us—and a very useful one it is and so simple. The material used in its construction is a small piece of white linen, a circle of cardboard, embroidery silk and a brass pointer. The cardboard circle is cut the size of the top of an ordinary tumbler; the linen is marked with figures like a clock dial and the words "TAKE AT," and with small scallops around the edge; the figures and words and scallops are then embroidered in any color desired, and the linen trimmed out around the scallops; the linen is then laid onto the cardboard, which is just the size of the linen



MEDICINE GLASS COVER.

inside of the scallops; a hole is made exactly in the centre of linen and cardboard, the little brass pointer laid on and a brass split paper-fastener put through all, fastening on the back side. The whole thing is then just the width of the scallops *larger* than the top of a tumbler, and when laid on a tumbler, not only excludes the air from the medicine, but relieves one's mind of the exact time at which the medicine is to be taken again, as the pointer is placed so as to plainly indicate this. If it is found that the pointers are difficult to buy, make one of the cardboard and paint it the color of the silk used for the embroidery—or ink it over—anything to make it perfectly plain at a glance; the fasteners come by the box and may be obtained anywhere. These covers retail for seventy-five cents each, and yet the material for a dozen would scarcely amount to that and the work is very little—yet what a useful and desirable present it makes.

Where to hang the watch at night is a question we all ask at various times, until we find the right place. For a simple and convenient watch rest we give the following description and illustration:

It is made of linen, embroidered with a scroll-like design—this particular one being of yellow linen embroidered with white silk. Two pieces of stiff cardboard are cut exactly alike and of the shape shown, being about five inches long and four inches high at the highest point. After the linen is embroidered and a large hook sewn on near the top for the watch to hang on, cover one of the pieces of cardboard with it, and paste the other piece onto the back to make it look neat and cover all raw edges. To the back side then paste a narrow piece of the stiff cardboard of the right length to make the easel tip back at the right angle—the strip being the prop. Such an easel may also be made of silk or of any material that is at hand, but if made of figured silk or plaid, it should not be embroidered.

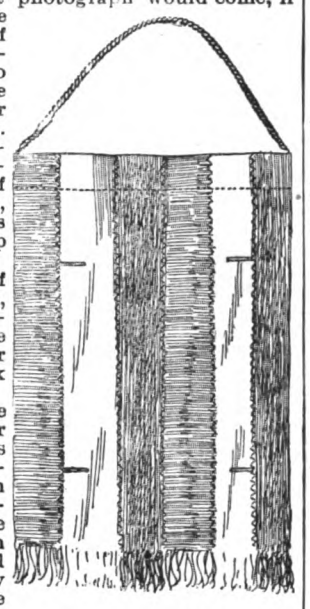
Most men find that a pincushion that rests on the top of the chiffoniere is in the way—as all they need is something to hold their scarf pins; it is, therefore, much better to have some kind of a *hanging* cushion that is always there and yet never obtrusive. For this purpose take a circle of cardboard, say five inches diameter; near the edge sew a ruffle of inch wide gathered satin ribbon; inside of that sew another gathered ruffle of the same width but in a contrasting color; this will leave an uncovered



WATCH EASEL.

circle of three inches in the center; upon this glue a cushion made of the same color as the outside ribbon; have it quite thick, so that pins will not go through to the cardboard back. Then put a loop of narrow ribbon or silk cord at the top and it is all ready to hang at the side of the mirror. The one here illustrated is of our national colors—being red for the outside ruffle, white for the next, and the cushion is made of a deep blue covered with gold stars.

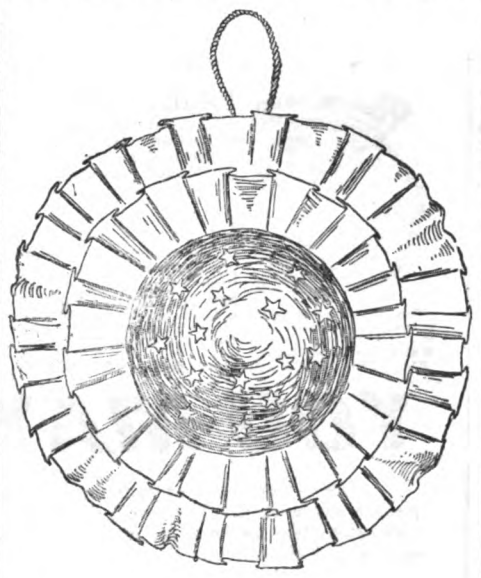
The banner picture frame is simple and very pretty when the right combination of colors is selected. It is made of six strips of inch wide satin ribbon, fringed for an inch at the bottom of each strip and at the top hemmed, and into the hem is run a whalebone; the proportion is about six inches wide by nine inches long. The photograph is held in its place by means of small hooks with the hump, which hold it securely, and these hooks are placed where the edges of a cabinet photograph would come, if laid in the middle of the frame. Of course such a picture would have to be laid on and the places marked for the four hooks. The strips of ribbon are held together by rows of featherstitching, and a silk cord is sewed at the top for hanging.



BANNER FRAME.

"E. J. C." of Emporia, Kansas, sends us the following valuable suggestions, for which we all thank her:

Those who have heavy Brussels or Moquette carpets often find it convenient to clean them without taking them from the floor and this can be very easily and satisfactorily done. Tear some old newspapers into small pieces, soak them in water, then roll them between the hands until they form soft little balls. Scatter them thickly over the carpet, then give it a thorough sweeping with a broom. The paper will collect the dust and keep it from flying about. Prepare a cleansing mixture by dissolving two bars of white soap in half a gallon of hot water and adding four ounces of powdered borax. Add enough of this mixture to a pan of warm water to make a strong suds and scrub the carpet with it, using a brush and taking only a small place at a time, just as you would scrub a floor. When the place you are washing is clean, wipe it with a soft rag wrung out of clear water, and proceed in this way until you have gone over the entire carpet; or if only a small portion is soiled, this may be washed and the remainder left as it is. The borax is a great help in cleaning the carpet and does not injure the colors. When the work is done, open the windows and doors and let the



PIN CUSHION.

air have free access so it will dry quickly. Rugs may be fastened to a board or table by tacking them down at the corners, and cleaned in the same way.

$100 A Month and Expenses This Winter.

We want a good man or woman in every district who is honest, sober and industrious, to engage with us for 1899. $100.00 a month and expenses for right party selling our Quaker Bath Cabinet and appointing agents in unoccupied territory. No experience necessary. No trade to learn. We furnish everything.

This wonderful Cabinet is needed for bathing purposes in every home. It opens the pores, sweats out the poisons that cause disease, and provides at home all the cleansing, purifying and invigorating effects of the famous Turkish and Medicated Vapor Baths. A regular Hot Springs at home. Cures a bad cold in one night. A good position to those who mention this paper and write us at once, giving age and references. The World Mfg. Co., Cincinnati, O.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

FOUND. A glue, mucilage, Cement, combined. Accidently discovered. To introduce send 20 cts. for full size bottle. Hercules Cement Co., Skowhegan, Maine.

GEARHART'S IMPROVED FAMILY
KNITTING MACHINE
Cheapest and best. Sell 1st and get yours free.
Send for particulars, and free samples of work knit on my new Ribbing Attachment. Yarn in stock. Address J. E. GEARHART, Box 4, CLEARFIELD, PA.

$4.95 BUYS A MAN'S ALL-WOOL SUIT
of rich, BLACK CHEVIOT, warranted best fast color.
Guaranteed equal in quality, style and looks to others best $10.00 suits,



We sell 1000 suits at $4.95 for advertising purposes; after they're gone the price goes back to $8.50. No more at $4.95 after 1000 are sold. Order quick or they may be gone; you can't afford to miss this wonder chance. **The Material** is Pali's Best All-Wool Black Cheviot, famous everywhere for its perfect weave and rich, deep black color. The cloth was woven by America's Best Woolen Mill from fine, picked wool yarn, dyed by a new process and cannot fade. It is heavy weight, is firmly woven, will positively not fade or wear shiny and will wear like leather. It's exactly the same cloth used in the Cheviot suits that retail everywhere for $10.00. Remember, we will sell only 1000 suits at $4.95; after they're gone, the price will be $8.50. Don't delay, but order to-day before they are all gone.

The Making—Expert Suit Tailors will make the suit in the latest Sack style to fit perfect, line it with Holdman's Celebrated Farmers' Satin, pipe it with Skinners' Famous AAA Satin, pad it extra well, use best grade of canvas for stiffening and sew every seam with pure silk and linen thread.

Send No Money in advance but send this advertisement with your Height, Weight, Chest, Waist and Crotch measure; we'll send the suit by express C. O. D. and allow you to examine and try it on before you pay one cent. If exactly as represented the greatest suit bargain on earth and worth double the price we ask, then pay the express agent $4.95 and expressage and take the suit. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory and he will return it at our expense. THE LOUIS R. VEHON CO., 155-157 W. Jackson St., Chicago, Ill.

We make other Suits for $6.95 to $13.95. Write for free samples of cloth.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

SPECTACLES at wholesale. Send for catalog. Agents wanted. COULTER OPTICAL CO. Chicago, Ill.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

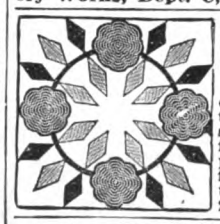
1 YARD SILK GOODS, all in one piece, suitable for dress trimming or fancy work, sent for 10 cents postpaid. 1 SILK CO., BEAVER SPRINGS, PA.

700 Sample Styles of Silk Fringe Cards, Hidden Name Cards, Love Cards, Scrap Pictures, Games, Puzzles, Album Verses, The Star Puzzle, 13 Puzzle, and Agents Sample Album of our latest Cards. Send a 2ct. stamp for postage. BANNER CARD CO., CADIZ, OHIO.

$9.50 BUYS A HIGH GRADE VICTOR SEWING MACHINE Adapted to Light and Heavy Work. Reliable and Finely Finished; Guaranteed for 10 Years. Write for 40 Page Catalogue. Attachments Free. 30 DAYS FREE TRIAL. Address Dept. 99. VICTOR MFG. CO., 90-98 Market St., Chicago.

740 Silk Fringe Cards, Love, Transparent, Escort & Acquaintance Cards, LAUGHING CAMERA, Prize Puzzles, New Games, Magical Illusions &c. Finest Sample Book of **CARDS** Biggest list of Premiums All for 2c. stamp. OHIO CARD CO., Cadiz, Ohio.

LADIES TO EMBROIDER. We send work to your home prepaid. Send addressed envelope for one piece of embroidery with prices paid. If our terms or work are not to your liking, you may return at our expense. Steady work and good pay. Empire Embroidery Works, Dept. C, 23 Duane St., New York.



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We want every quilter to have our book of **400 designs**, containing the prettiest, queerest, scarcest, most grotesque patterns from old log cabin to stars and puzzle designs. All sent postpaid for 10c. 7th revised edition, beautiful, unique. **Ladies' Art Co., 203 Pine St., B 5, St. Louis, Mo.**



Our Golden Watch has the appearance of one worth $40.00. The Watch is accompanied by a 20 YEAR GUARANTEE. The cases are beautifully made by the most skilled workmen. The movement is AN AMERICAN STYLE, full plate, expansion balance, quick train, and you can rely upon it that when you own one of these truly handsome watches, you will at all times have the correct time in your possession. Do you want a watch of this character? If so, now is your opportunity to secure one. To introduce our Photograph Outfits we will send you this Watch Free if you will take advantage of our marvellous offer. If you want one, write to us without delay. With your letter send us 12c. in stamps, or 10c. silver for which we will send you a Photograph Outfit and our offer. You can produce a picture with a few puffs of smoke. After you receive the beautiful Watch we shall expect you to show it to your friends and call their attention to this advertisement. This Watch is sent Free, by Registered Post, on your complying with our advertisement, and the marvellous offer which we will send, and it is fully warranted. Money returned if not more than satisfied. SEND US 10 CENTS, silver, or 12 one-cent stamps. We will mail you at once our WATCH OFFER and Photograph Outfit. You will then know all about our watches and also appreciate our Photo Outfit. Address, plainly, at once to STAR PHOTO. CO., 19 Warren Street, New York.

$245.00 WORTH OF GOODS FOR ONLY $2.50.

If you write us to-day we will put you in a position to receive Two Hundred and forty-five dollars worth of our Goods from an expenditure of only two dollars and a half. We have the greatest and most profitable proposition to make to you ever presented to an agent. A postal will put the plan before you. Address,

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STAMMERING I make a legal contract to cure Stammering in FIVE DAYS, or get no pay. Free Pamphlet. Gibbon's Stammering School, Room 63, Mass. Bldg. Kansas City, Mo.

FITS A Great Remedy Discovered. Send for a FREE package & let it speak for itself. Postage 5c. DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ills.

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELLE MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

THE HAIR TELLS ALL
If sick, send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex, 4 cents postage, and I will diagnose your case and tell you what will cure your ailments FREE. Address Dr. J. C. BATDORF, Dept. 15, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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HOW TO REDUCE IT
Miss M. Nobles Racine, Wis. writes; "Your remedy reduced my weight 54 lbs. and I think it is the simplest and grandest remedy in the world to reduce superfluous fat" It is purely vegetable and can be prepared at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. Sample box and full particulars in plain envelope sent free to anyone. It costs you nothing to try it.
Hall Chemical Co. R Box St. Louis, Mo.



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Armenian Needle Work Designs So Closely Followed as to Defy Detection.



Read How You May Get This Splendid Japanese Gift For Your Own Home. The most gifted race in the world with the needle are the Orientals. For centuries the rich and varied designs worked by their hands have been the admiration and delight of lovers of art. A few years ago an American was fortunate enough to invent machinery that would reproduce these rich designs of embossed embroidery and needlework, even to the delicate films of gold thread work. Still more curious the Japanese obtained plans and made similar machinery, so that they have the addition of "cheap labor" to Yankee machinery. In this way the most delicate Armenian and Turkish needlework is imitated so closely that none but the expert on close examination, reveals the minor points of imitation. In this way the treasures of the Orient are imitated with such a degree of fidelity and richness that work which sells for fabulous prices is reproduced at little cost. Every tint and shade and the peculiar "lay" and twist of the silks and threads shine and shimmer in perfect reproduction. These goods are of the very best material and come in a rich profusion of rich Oriental designs and colors such as pink, blue, etc., with rich gold effects, all of the latest and highest class art. They are so rich and ornamental that every lady is wild to possess them and they ornament and enrich the whole room giving it an air of luxury and refinement hard to describe.

An Art Table Cover Free. We wish to introduce our splendid family monthly into thousands of new homes and to accomplish this intend to actually give away these rich and ornamental Table Covers to our friends. We shall send a handsome cover, about two feet and a half square, of the richest and most pleasing designs, and being in appearance like the hand-made covers that Armenian experts sell for from $12 to $25 each, to every subscriber who sends twenty-five cents for a special trial yearly subscription. This is the greatest offer ever made, for, besides receiving this **Beautiful Art Gift,** which sells for nearly $1 at stores, without cost you obtain a whole year's subscription to the best and most fascinating monthly published. If you are already a subscriber you can have the paper sent to some friend and the art goods to yourself.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

THE recent war has stimulated the interest in bicycles and tricycles as applied to army use. In England, especially, is this interest manifest and the radical men in the Queen's army who are desirous of introducing this new feature into the army are convinced of its importance as an offensive innovation.

Col. Stacey of the famous Scots Guard is the man who first suggested the use of the bicycle in the English army, and, after twelve years persistent hammering away at his pet idea, he has at last succeeded in getting the authorities to look with favor upon the plan to establish a well drilled cycling corps in the regular army. The volunteers, as the organization that in America would be called the national guard is known there, have long had their cycling corps. The war office tried to discourage the idea when it was first mooted, but their opposition failed to prevent the formation, on April 1st, 1889, of the first military cycling corps, the 26th Middlesex volunteers. To-day it is the largest, smartest and most efficient corps in the country and it is mainly due to the exertions that the war office has been induced ultimately to adopt the cycle in connection with the regular service. Although not attached to any particular battalion, this corps always accompanies the South London brigade upon its marches. At the present moment it can mobilize a force of one hundred and twenty men. It is a curious circumstance that when this corps was founded, it applied in the natural course of things to the war office for an official drill; but even this formality was denied the cyclists, and they were thus compelled to formulate their own drill. Col. Savilo, when he severed his connection with the regular forces, held the commandership of this corps for two years.

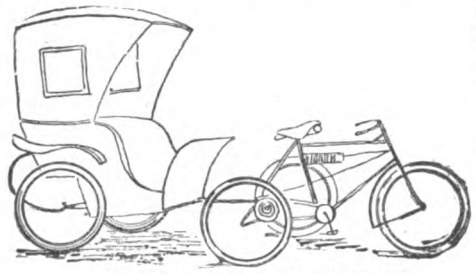
When Lord Wolseley stepped into the position of commander-in-chief of the British army, vacated by the Duke of Cambridge, it was anticipated that some concession to the cyclists would be made as Lord Wolseley had declared "that they would be invaluable, especially upon the fine roads in India." But the anticipation was not realized, and it was only recently that the army authorities relented, and now propose to draw a certain number of men from the regulars, and to thoroughly inculcate them in cycling drill at Aldershot. The manœuvers have shown that in action the military cyclist requires plenty of room to move around smartly. This is another reason why the campaign in Cuba could not have been taken as a criterion of the success or failure of the bicycle in war. When extended in a lateral line, one yard must be left between each man to enable him to ground his machine without clashing with his neighbor. When marching in files, or single file, that is one behind the other in one longitudinal line—a distance of one foot at least—or as it is called in the military vernacular, a "cycle distance"—must be maintained between each bicycle. As may be naturally supposed, to maintain anything like order and uniformity the speed of marching has to be gauged by the pace of the slowest rider, but the average marching speed is about ten miles an hour. This fluctuates, however, according to the conditions of the road and weather. It is almost impossible to maintain an absolutely compact order, as accidents to the machines, such as a puncture, compel a man to drop out. As a rule, while en route, the cyclists "march at ease," and although they may not leave their positions they have a little more latitude extended to them than to the ordinary soldiers, being permitted to talk and smoke.

As an advance guard it has been demonstrated that the military cyclist is invaluable. He presents a very small mark as compared with a cavalryman, and when he is pursued nothing short of a breakdown of his wheel can stop him. His tactics are bewildering, for he can advance and retire so swiftly that an enemy never knows where he has been or where to look for him next. Another advantage among the many that the cyclist soldier has over the cavalryman is this: supposing cavalrymen wish to dismount in order to use their carbines, one man out of every four must hold the bridles of the horses for his three comrades so that the attacking force is thereby reduced by 25 per cent. Even when driven to bay a posse of cyclists is by no means a despicable foe. In this eventuality they take up their position behind the grounded cycles, from whence they can maintain a terrible fire. One hundred cyclists in such a position could fire about forty thousand rounds so that they could without doubt, account for a fairly good number of their opponents before their ammunition was expended.

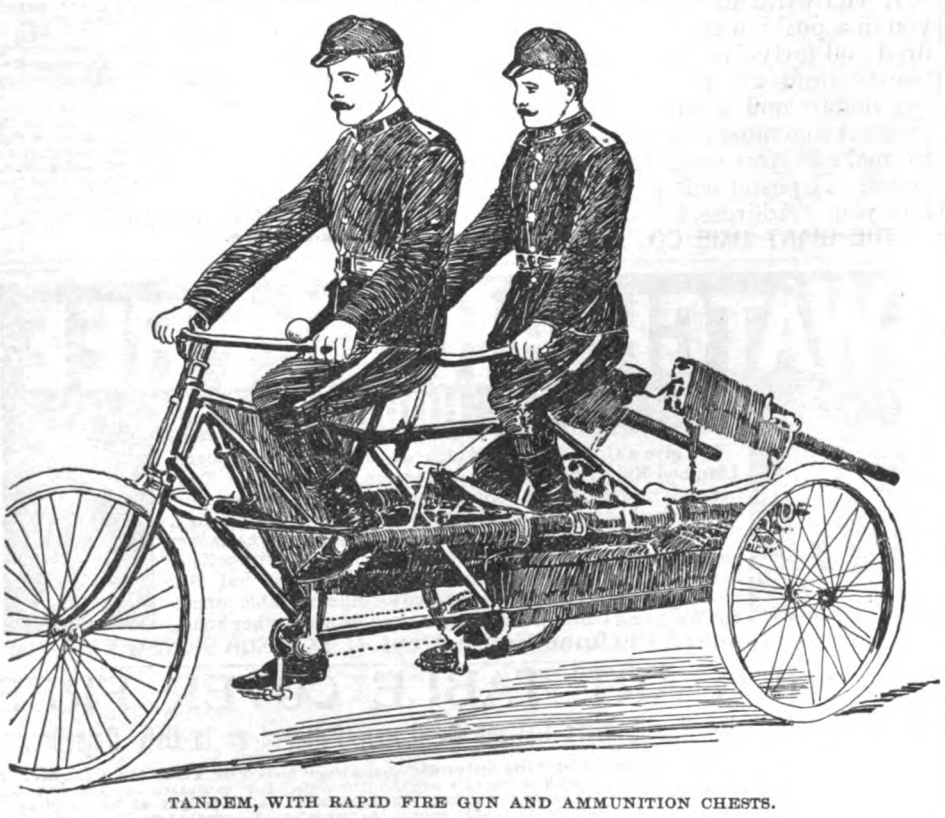
The cyclist soldier's paramount business is skirmishing, reconnoitring, carrying dispatches and obtaining information, in which departments he is eminently successful, being able to hold out longer than can the horse of a cavalryman. It is pre-eminence in these duties of war which has earned for the cycle corps the apposite cognomen of "the eyes and ears of the army." After nightfall, owing to the rapidity and silence with which he moves the cyclist is especially efficacious, being able to creep along noiselessly in the shadow, and at the psychological moment whiz by the sentry. When armed with the quick-firing machine guns, with which they are about to be equipped, these cyclist soldiers will form a most formidable corps in the British volunteer army.

The automobile vehicle, as the various notices of its adoption for one purpose and another clearly demonstrate, is very slowly but none the less surely working its way into public favor on both sides of the Atlantic. American buyers are confessedly more conservative in the adoption of the horseless wagons than English interests, consequently the editorial discussion of the present merit of motor delivery vans by one of the foremost English trade journals is interesting. This paper admits that motor cars are not perfect, but it also points out that neither is the horse a perfect machine for traction purposes. The great question is entirely one of cost, and there is no doubt that after fair trial a good motor-van, especially when only used intermittently, will be found cheaper than a horse. Many firms, the account continues, are using motor-vans more for advertisement than economy, but in large towns the novelty of the thing has now worn off and its advertising value is proportionately diminished. The cost of a good serviceable petroleum-driven van to carry loads of ten or fifteen hundred weight is roughly given as twelve hundred dollars; for tradesmen's purposes a petroleum-driven motor van is recommended as a first preference, and a steam motor, one fired by petroleum as second choice. Among the points which it is important to ascertain beforehand, especially for those who live in hilly districts, is what gradients the vehicle will ascend. Simplicity of construction is one of the most important features after this.

A particularly novel type of automobile advertised in an English journal as light and gracefully constructed is shown in the illustration, which represents a combination coupe and motor tricycle. The motor-cycle is detachable from the carriage and can be ridden by itself, but when attached as shown it serves the purpose of a horse. The groom or footman is supposed to sit in the motor-tricycle saddle, and to start the combination by two or three turns of the pedals after which the petroleum-driven motor attached to the rear of the tricycle develops sufficient power to propel the cab without any further assistance. The oil reservoir will hold a sufficient quantity of oil to carry the cab between fifty and sixty miles. The cab is stated to hold two persons comfortably.



CAB HITCHED TO MOTOR TRICYCLE.



TANDEM, WITH RAPID FIRE GUN AND AMMUNITION CHESTS.

SELF HOME TREATMENT FOR LADIES.
I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female troubles, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask. MRS. SUMMERS, Box C, Notre Dame, Ind.

Six Steel Pens Free.
Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta Maine.

HIGH ARM. Warranted Ten Years

USE IT FREE
30 days in your own home before paying one cent in advance; shipped anywhere, to anyone, for 30 days' test trial. We risk you.
$60 White Star Machine, . . . $22.00
$50 Pearl Machine 18.00
Standard Singers, $9, $12.50, 16.00
Full set of attachments free; buy from factory and save $10 to $40; WE PAY FREIGHT; thousands in use; catalog, showing 20 other styles, free. Each machine guaranteed 10 years.
Address (in full) Consolidated Wholesale Supply Co. Dept. 58 215 S. Clinton St., Chicago, Ill.

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We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 18 packages of **Royal English Ink Powder** at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you sell the **Ink Powder** send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. **We trust you.** Don't lose this grand opportunity. **Write for the outfit today.** Address all orders to IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.

TALKING MACHINES! All kinds; $1.50 and upward; catalogue 2c. stamp. COLUMBIA T. M. CO., Dept. 14, HOBOKEN, N. J.


SPANISH NEEDLES, GOLD-ometers, etc., for gold hunters and treasure seekers. Latest improved. Circulars free. P. & M. AGENCY, Palmyra, Pa.


HANDSOME MUSTACH or LOVELY HAIR Grown with our TURKISH HAIR GROWER in 3 weeks or money refunded. NO MORE BALD HEADS OR SMOOTH FACES. We warrant every package and offer $1000 forfeit this is the QUICKEST, SUREST, also HARMLESS. Full treatment, 25cts., 3 for 50c. Avoid dangerous imitations. TREMONT MANUFG. CO., Station A, BOSTON, MASS.

EXQUISITE RINGS FREE

We will give a beautiful Solid Gold finished ring warranted to any person who will sell 10 of our beautiful enameled Pins at 10c. each. Send name and address and we will mail pins postpaid. You sell them and remit $1 and we will mail the ring. CLARK & CO., 100 Vinton St., Providence, R. I.

CHILD LOST For 18 years. Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C, 245, Saratoga, New York.


FREE! FREE!!
Any one can earn this **Beautiful Gold Plated Hunting Case Stem Winder Watch, Charm, and Chain** (guaranteed) a perfect timekeeper, by selling our **ELECTRIC LAMP WICKS.** They can be sold in a few hours. They are practically indestructible. No trimming; no smoke; no smell.
OUR GRAND 90-DAY OFFER: Send your name and address, and we will send you 20 wicks, postpaid; you will sell them at 5c. each and remit us $1, and we will mail to your address, free, a **Beautiful Gold Plated Watch Chain and Charm.**
ELECTRICAL WICK COMPANY, Dept. C, Orange, N. J.

TRIAL TREATMENT FREE!!
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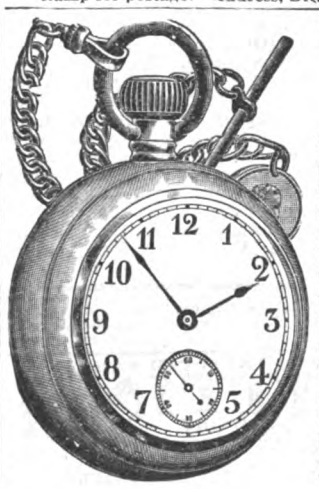
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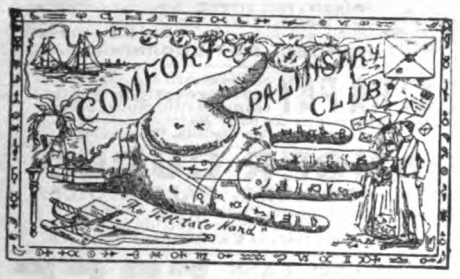
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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I AM sorry that I cannot keep up with all the hands that are sent in so as to give each one the first reading after they are received, but it is impossible and I have to take them in order as they come. Space is limited, and I shall have to ask those who are still waiting to see their impressions appear in COMFORT, to be patient another month.

The first hand which I shall read this month is the hand of "America." I must say in the first place that these impressions were not properly treated and that nothing was used to prevent the smoke from rubbing off the paper. The bits of cork which were stuck around here and there did not prevent the impressions from rubbing somewhat, so that I shall not pretend that this reading will be infallible in all particulars. The main lines, however, are distinct enough so that I can follow them without much trouble. The life line is a good one, although considerably bound in with the head line during the early years which indicates that there was not much independence of thought. There is a break in the center which is joined together with a square. This square means protection against some serious mishap, probably an illness, at this point in the life. As the marks do not appear in the right hand probably this trouble will never appear. All lines running upward in any place in the hand are always good signs. The future of this person will evidently be pleasanter than the earlier part of the life. It looks, so far as I can judge from these impressions, clear and good without any serious troubles. She will travel somewhat toward the latter part of her life. She will probably outlive her husband, but will either live with him until she is fifty-five, or so, or she will marry again the second time. The lines are blurred in this instance so that I cannot tell whether it is the same line or not. There is not much indication of money in this hand although no lines of extreme poverty appear. She will be sensible and affectionate, and have many friends. I do not see any serious trouble in her married life; in fact I should say it was a happy one. She is inclined to be somewhat melancholy in her disposition, and broods over imaginary trouble too much. This is a tendency which she ought to overcome, and which will add to her unhappiness, unless overcome. She has a hand for business, but it is impossible to tell from anybody's hand whether they will positively go into business, or not. All we can say is that in case she goes into a business life she has the right kind of hand to succeed. Although, as I said before she will never be very rich, she will be in comfortable circumstances. She is lofty in her motives and aspirations, but should cultivate a spirit of content. She is extremely fond of poetry and of sentimental fiction, and of anything that is morbid in literature. She should not indulge in these things, as she is too morbid and sensitive in her nature. She should cultivate cheerfulness and hope, and fight against a tendency toward discouragement. If grief comes to her she will be very seriously affected by it, and inclined to give up too easily. This she must also try to overcome. She will be inclined to lung troubles, or bronchial, and should guard against that as much as possible. On the whole I should say hers was a rather fortunate career, with no more trouble than belongs to ordinary individuals.



"AMERICA."

The little hands which she sends evidently belong to a child. There is some sort of illness, or fatality at the age of about twenty from which the subject will probably be preserved and will live to a reasonably good age. The mother of this child should be careful that it does not overwork at school as there is a slight tendency to brain troubles. Her health will be delicate through childhood, and she will need care until she is twenty-five. After that her health will be good most of her life. I should judge that she was a very promising child, and had some talent which will be developed later.



"FAILURE."

"Failure" failed to use fixatif on his impressions so that they too are quite badly rubbed, although it is possible to read something from them. No matter how well the impressions may look when you are sending them out, unless the smoke and the lines are firmly fixed by spraying them with fixatif, or some preparation of gum arabic, and allowing them to dry perfectly, they will not be in good condition when they reach me, as there is constant rubbing in the mails. "Failure" seems to have chosen a name for himself that is not exactly appropriate for he has some very good lines. He has the hand of a successful business man; one with good judgment, perseverance, and in the main good health. He may be depended upon by his friend, or by his enemies. He will make some money and during the latter part of his life will be well off. He will, however, have to make it for himself, as what comes to him is not through luck, but through his own efforts and perseverance. He is a man of great tact and strong will power, and is not easily influenced by others. He will have a severe illness at about the age of fifty, and great care will have to be used to pull him through. If he gets through with that all right he will live to be seventy or over. He will marry early in life and have a very congenial partner, and lead a happy life up to the age of fifty or afterward. His life will not be without crosses and dangers, however, and he will have many things to contend against. There will be opposition from friends and from foes, but his sterling qualities will lead him to fight against them, and he will succeed. His Mount of Mars is well developed, and I should think the line of Mars, which adds to his fighting qualities, was also well developed. By fighting I do not mean a rough and tumble fight, but that sort of courage which will stand him in good stead in fighting the obstacles which may come up before him in life. On the whole his is a successful hand unless I am greatly mistaken in the impression which is before me



"EUGENIA."

"Eugenia" sends some of the best impressions which I have seen for some time. I only wish I could have them reproduced exactly as they come to me so that you might all see what I mean when I say they are good impressions. "Eugenia's" hand shows many ups and downs, but is, on the whole, a very fortunate one. She is a person of highly nervous temperament; very refined, fond of music, art and literature. Fond of good company, admiration, travel, and all the good things of life. She is, however, a person of a great deal of good sense and good judgment and does not allow her liking for good things to lead her into trouble. Naturally she is inclined to a rather morbid turn of mind, but she has overcome this in a large measure, and will do so as she gets older. She has had much opposition to meet from friends during the early part of her life, but the latter part will be free from this sort of thing, and will have many things to be thankful for. There are many upward rising lines from her life line which shows that the influences are good and that her life will improve as it grows older. I don't think she will have children; not many at least. Two marriages are indicated, although the first may be only an engagement. The second marriage, if it is the second, will take place at about the age of thirty-five or forty, and will be exceptionally happy. The health was not good through childhood, and will be delicate all through life; that is, the constitution is not very strong. There is a star in the center of both hands, which is a good sign, indicating brilliancy and good fortune. She will have many friends, and be much respected in places where she lives. She has a strong will, is a person of tact, and is a leader in the society in which she moves. She is naturally formed for a leader and will take a prominent part wherever she lives in all matters in which she is interested. She will have plenty of this world's goods and they will increase as she grows older. She has an exceptionally strong and clear marriage line, especially the last one. She will travel a good deal, mostly in her own country, and will die in her native land. She has had a great deal of admiration from the opposite sex, and is probably a very attractive woman. On the whole, although her hand indicates a very sensitive, nervous temperament, with some ill health, and some trouble caused through the affections, it is a very fortunate hand and indicates a fine character and a great degree of success.



"LUNA."

The other palm which she sends is marked "Luna" and is probably her own left hand. This indicates a much more morbid tendency than the first one, and a person who is much given to sentimental thoughts and reading; one who could write poetry if she chose, and who would be rather inclined to revel in gloomy thoughts and morbid sensations. Her health, according to this would naturally not be good, and would break up in old age with rather unfortunate symptoms. She would not live to be more than fifty or sixty. Her marriage would be of short duration, and she would have a long illness from the age of thirty. An early attachment which appears at the very beginning grows away and separates, showing that this friend recedes from her life and does not enter it again. Her marriage at about twenty-five or thereabouts, is a happy one, and there is a line joining the fate line on Saturn which would indicate happiness and good fortune in old age. The heart line indicates many flirtations, but a good deal of good sense and strong affection, and marriage at last with a man of the Saturnian type. She would be very brilliant, and shine in society and could succeed in literature should she make the attempt. She has many troubles, however, caused by the affections, up to the age of thirty, after which life would be calmer as long as it lasted. If this is the left hand of Eugenia, I should say that she has greatly improved upon it and that her prospects, according to the right hand, which is the one we believe in, are very much improved.

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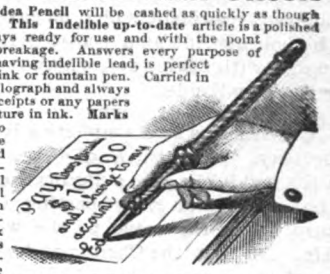
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Poor old Columbus! Even his bones can not rest in peace in the busy bustling land that he discovered. After lying for years in the cathedral of Havana they are to be taken back to Spain. Spain's last permanent possession in the vast continent which he gave her, is to be the bones of the man whose living body she loaded with chains and whose heart she broke with ingratitude.

Christmas is most emphatically the children's holiday. When the Lord of the Earth became a little child he gave a dignity and a sanctity to that state, and every passing Christmas but emphasizes the value to the world of child life. At best the Christmas for "grown ups" is a festival with a slight tinge of sadness, but to the child with his faith in Santa Claus and general trustfulness it is a time of riotous, unadulterated joy. A Christmas away from the influence of children is a Christmas in name only.

The old Persian poet Omar Khayam continues to tempt translation to give new versions of his most ancient of modern ideas. Miss Elizabeth Curtis, a New England girl, has won much praise among literary people for her new rendering of the thought. Edward Fitzgerald first made the Western world familiar with the line of thought of the Persian; then came the translation of Richard Le Galliene and now this later translation. Many of the quatrains are sung in the song cycle "In a Persian Garden."

"Peace on earth; good will to men," comes home to the mind of the average American with great force at this particular time. One needs a touch of war to know what peace means. The great unrest in Europe deepens the significance which the message of peace bears to us. With France, Germany and England jostling each other in the Dark Continent, with the Russian Bear and the British Lion reaching at each other across the Flowery Kingdom, the American felicitates himself that in his taste of what a famous general calls "hell" he has maintained principle at the minimum sacrifice of life.

How common sense, convenience and comfort all go down before the all conquering touch of fashion. Golf, bicycling and Rainy Day Club have opened a vista of freedom before the civilized victims of long skirts. It was predicted by optimists that the long thralldom of the skirt had passed forever and its emancipated victims skipped in athletic glee over the fences of convention. But alas! Dame Fashion extended her wand and the skirts clung in uncomfortable tightness around the body and trailed in defiant protest behind the meek victims. When my lady is not athletic she must wear an uncomfortably long skirt.

Christmas 1898, offers a few inducements to cheer the way of the man who wishes to give "Her" a Christmas gift and yet is at a total loss as to what form the offering shall take. Bracelets and ear-rings after being under the ban of fashion for many years are again popular. Old chamois bags are gotten out and the jewelry that has been hopelessly out of style for years is now the "latest" thing. It would seem that the war had brought with it a revival of the fashions of 1860, for the ear-rings are of the long, drooping variety. We may be so near the annexation of lands where the nose rings are still popular adornments for women, that this semi-savage decoration of our women may be but an effort to convince these dwellers in "waste lands apart" that they are not entirely an alien race. Whatever this decoration may indicate of our civilization, it certainly smooths the path of the troubled seeker after Christmas gifts.

One of the most interesting questions raised by the annexation of Porto Rico was the one of the right of suffrage. A native of Porto Rico claimed the right to vote in the November elections in New York. He claimed that he was now a citizen of the United States, possessed of the legal qualifications for the right of suffrage demanded in New York. It was a question that was entirely new and its settlement involved many nice points in constitutional law. We have had much interesting information in regard to this little island which is the first fruits of our conquest. Its civilization seems very strange and very foreign to our ideas, but Yankee push and enterprise will soon eliminate all the obsolete fashions that seem so primitive and so peculiar to the average citizen. It is said that nearly every one in Porto Rico keeps a horse and carriage. In a few months we can imagine the "electrics" whizzing through the one-time quiet little Spanish colony. The natives hailed the raising of the Stars and Stripes with cheers. It was a most dramatic passing of the old, but the most dramatic contrasts will be presented when American commercialism takes the place of the old methods.

Sorosis, after spurning the ground for years and indulging in airy flights of fancy, philosophy and facts, has at last touched bottom. When an enterprising shoe dealer succeeded in gaining official warrant to have a shoe named after the Club and proceeded to advertise the "Sorosis Shoe" the wrath of the members knew no bounds. It was a very practical, commonsense sort of shoe too. But Sorosis has a soul above its shoe strings and emphatically resented lending its elevating influence to "soles" spelled in that way. The Sorosis bonnet has long been a "joy forever" to the irreverent reporters, who refused to see in it "a thing of beauty." One prominent member even tied her handkerchief over her much maligned bonnet when she came out from a meeting to give some stray crumbs of information to a reporter.

One would expect the Sorosis shoe to combine an extremely fashionable shape with a breadth of sole and a superfine quality of uppers not to be met with in a shoe that was only stylish or one that was only practical. In future ages the naturalist who can build an animal up from the bones of the foot may gaze at the final remains of a Sorosis shoe and from this give to future ages the combination of qualities that produce a member of Sorosis.

The current publications and the book stores are submerged in a flood of "golf literature." The bicycling story is emphatically a back number. The golf vocabulary is too technical to hold the attention of the unfashionable outsider who is not a "golf fiend." Even the Scotch dialect story is plain reading beside the "fluffy," "tee," put, bunker, "nine up and seven to play," "woozle," and kindred terms that enliven the pages of golf literature. The snow fall must of necessity curb the enthusiasm of golf players, but such little details as fall rains and mists were treated with the sublime indifference to discomfort that distinguishes a true devotee to the historic game. The outsider is led to wonder if it is fun or fashion that gives the game its great vogue among people of leisure. There is a utility side to the bicycling craze that ensures its existence even though the stamp of fashionable approval has been withdrawn. When it became possible for the 4,000,000 as well as for the "400" to own a wheel the fashionable vogue of the sport vanished. The workingman or workingwoman does not cease to regard the wheel as a pleasure as well as a convenience. "Golfing" with its expensive paraphernalia of club houses, servants and expensive grounds can never become a "popular" sport in the sense of being an amusement of the many. It must be classed with yachting, horse-racing, and kindred amusements whose foundations lie in a plethoric pocket book. As a result "golf literature" appeals to but a limited circle of readers.

We hear much of Christmas joys in town—of miles of glittering shop windows, of the gaiety of the streets and the places of amusement. It is all the creation of the paragraphers. Christmas—the real—the only—the genuine Christmas never comes to the dweller in towns. Christmas is a home festival. The Christmas spirit is not found where the extremes of wealth and poverty walk side by side. Confronted with the actual physical want and suffering of the masses the "good will to men" seems a phrase. In the great cities there is little of the real spirit of Christmas that seems to need the miles of snow-covered landscape and the great fires of a country home. One needs but to eat a Christmas dinner in an average table-de-hote restaurant to appreciate what the Christmas spirit means. There is dinner—good in its way—there are the crowds of people whose home is a "furnished room;" there are the Christmas greens in the window and the mistletoe over the door, the roast goose and plum pudding and the "Merry Christmas to all" at the head of the menu, but someway Christmas is not to be caught in that way. It is only a poor makeshift for the genuine article. Christmas is within like most of the real joys of this life and it lies within. We are less truly ourselves away from our contact with Nature. We can not make a king with the robes of royalty and we can not make a Christmas with the trappings of the season.

The real genuine book lover has a wide field of interest in his chosen passion. One can be a book lover upon the most infinitesimal of incomes and taste all the pleasures of the real book worm. On the other hand the collector of rare editions, of brochures and of black letter must needs be a millionaire to ride his favorite hobby. Book binding is becoming quite a fad with women of leisure as its artistic possibilities are almost limitless. At the same time it offers a field of employment to women in search of a congenial and refined occupation. Book binding requires much patience and no slight outlay of time and money for its acquisition. From six months' to a year's time is required to master the details and an outlay of not less than $500. Many women of wealth and leisure spend much time in binding their pet books and so giving an individual touch to their libraries. The method of "interlineation" is a favorite idea with book lovers. Unbound copies of some pet book are procured and the collector then devotes himself to gathering pictures to illustrate the book. These come from all sources, and etchings, wood engravings and copper plates are found side by side with the modern machine pictures. One biblipole has 4000 pictures to illustrate a Life of Washington. A Life of Lincoln boasts 2000 illustrations collected from different sources. When this book is bound in a cover designed and made by the collector it makes an "edition-de-luxe" far beyond the most ambitious efforts of the publisher. A room in the Boston Public Library is set aside for books bearing upon Spanish history. Many of the most valuable books in this collection are the work of the "Castilian Club" in Boston. Nineteen books have been compiled from the researches of the Club. These are either type written or in library round hand, and scattered among the leaves are the etchings, engravings and photographs relating to the subject. These have been collected by the Club members.

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LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
35	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
18	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
33	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddavd
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
43	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
63	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
137	My Love Polka	Ziehrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
24	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
83	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
3	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
29	Sweet Long Ago Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
57	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
26	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
44	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reissmann
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
12	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
78	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
42	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
4	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song	Mosher
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	Bickmore
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
74	In Sweet September	Temple
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
54	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne

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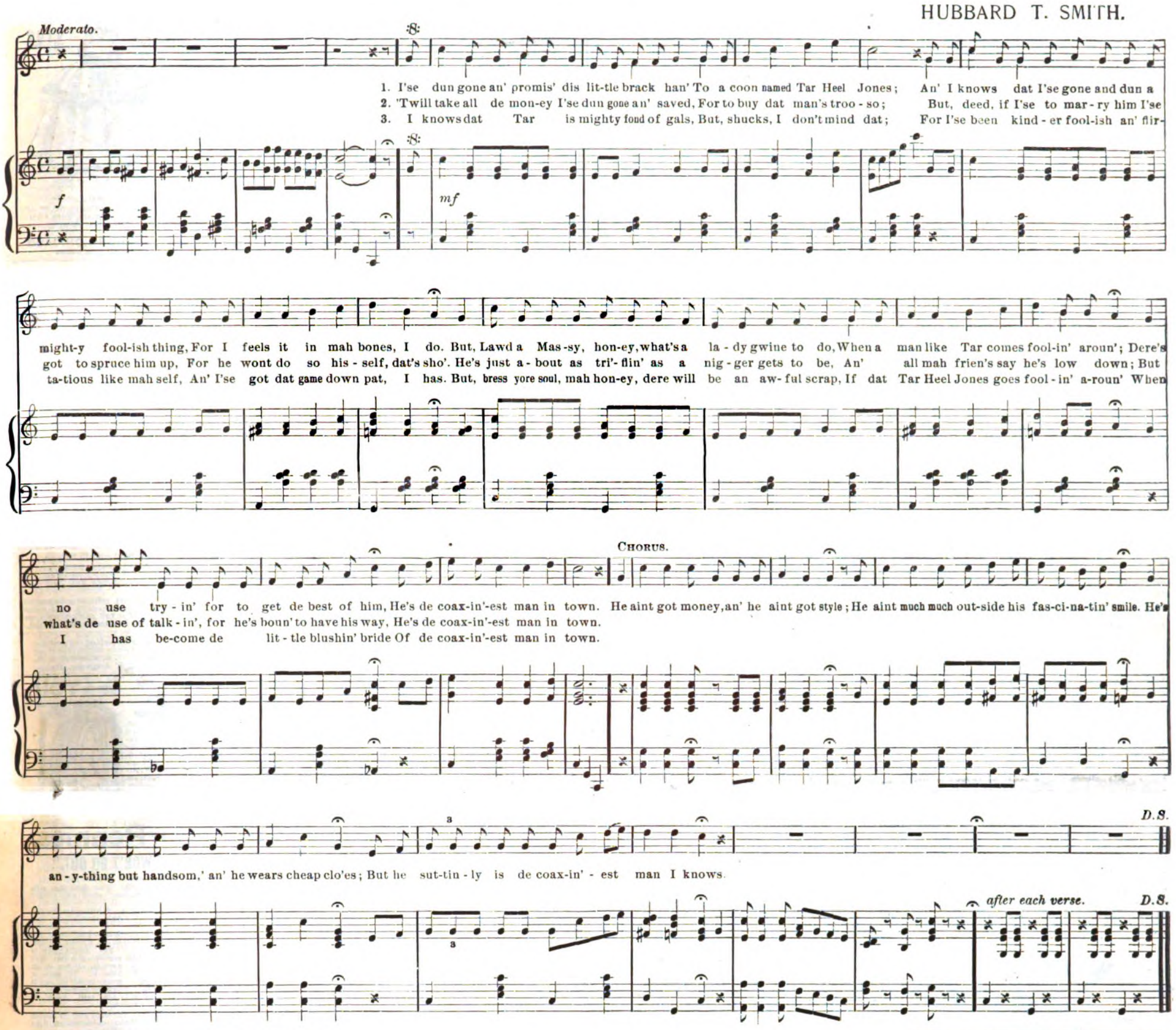
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DE COAXIN'EST MAN.

HUBBARD T. SMITH.



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"COON" SONGS.

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"De Coaxin'est Man" published above is one of those very popular "coon" songs which delight the hearts of everybody and become wildly popular everywhere. It has always been known that the negro had as much music as any of the human race, and to his natural love of music we are indebted for many of the most popular pieces we sing. After the Civil War there were hundreds of beautiful songs culled from the slave days, which were full of melody but of a generally mournful cadence. As we got away from the strife of war the negro music became brighter and more catchy; and, recently, the new period of "coon" music in its catchy, breezy style has been made popular, largely by the efforts of that popular actress, May Irwin, who first grasped the possibilities of this class of music. Since her immense triumph the fad has spread and there are constantly growing lists of similar pieces, while their popularity remains unbounded.

Speaking of war days reminds COMFORT of the rapid advances that have taken place in the world since our Civil War. Almost everything has shot ahead in the wonderful race of progress more than in the preceding two centuries. When such songs as "My Old Kentucky Home," "The Mocking Bird," "Sweet Maggie May," etc., were first published, the regular price of sheet music was from 50 cents to $1.00. Only a quarter of a century later the modern methods of COMFORT allow its readers to have the very best white sheet music, with full size words and score for a trifle more than the cost of postage.

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If the reader will look on another page of COMFORT he will find this great and modern music offer which has never before been equalled. In addition to this we have several new attractions which we are able to send this month as follows: No. 180. Far Away. A very popular song, the words by Miss M. Lindsay, and the music by Miss J. W. Bliss. No. 181. Variations for Piano on Auld Lang Syne, by G. W. Durkee, he who wrote the variations on Old Oaken Bucket, advertised as No. 171, being the most popular piece, without any exception, on the entire list, and of which 128,000 copies have already been sold. No. 182. Father Is Drinking Again. A temperance song, words and music by B. G. Bickmore. No. 183. Golden Rain, Nocturne, for Piano, by C. W. Cloy.

If you have not tried this plan of obtaining music do so now and call your music-loving friends' attention to this money-saving opportunity to get sheet music, and you can have any of the above numbers included in any list of ten pieces you may make up from the offer on opposite page.

Legends of the Crucifixion.



HERE are different opinions held as to the tree from which was made the cross upon which Jesus was crucified. Some authorities say the cedar, others, the olive, and others still say the cross was made of various different woods—the arms of one kind, the body of another, and the head piece of a third; but this last theory is hardly credible, as it is not to be supposed that so much pains would be taken with the instrument of death for a malefactor. Popular superstition says that it was the elder; and in Scotland people will not burn the wood of this tree, even if other wood is scarce and this plentiful. Some carry their superstitions so far as to take refuge under an elder during a thunder storm, averring that lightning will not strike an elder because it was once used to hold the body of the Saviour. In the north of England the elder is planted in the form of a cross upon a newly made grave, and if it blooms there it is held to be a sure sign that the soul of the dead person is happy.

Another legend says that the cross was made from the wood of the aspen, and that the leaves have trembled ever since on account of their guilt. Still another legend says that all the trees but the aspen shivered at the time of the crucifixion, and the aspen, because it did not do so then, has been doomed to quiver ever since.

The dwarf birch, in Scotland, is believed to have been stunted in growth because from it were made the rods with which Christ was scourged.

The Judas tree, or Red-bud, is a small tree having rose-colored blossoms. This tree flowers in the spring before leaving, and then it is pink with blossom, like the peach tree. It gets its name from the legend that it was the tree from which Judas hanged himself, and it is said to have at once flowered in the effort to hide itself from very shame at its disgrace, and the blossoms turned crimson from the same sense of shame.

The passion flower, a family of climbing plants, get their name from the fancied resemblance of the various parts of the flower to the different things used at the time of our Lord's passion and death. The nails, the crown of thorns, the five wounds, and even the hammer and the cross itself being found in some part of the blossom.

In trimming for Christmas the English use holly, bay, rosemary and laurel, but never mistletoe; partly because it was used by the old Druids, and, in some sections of the country, because it is believed to have been used for the true cross. Ivy is excluded because it was, in old times, sacred to Bacchus; Cypress, also, is sacred to funeral, and so must not be used at so joyful a time as Christmas.

New York has an orchestra of left handed fiddlers.

FOR WINTER USE.

Kitty—"Oh, I say, Fan, have you saved any fellows over from the summer campaign?"

Fannie—"Not a one. I guess I'll have to fall back on Charlie. I have been engaged to him for three years."

USEFUL TO ADVERTISERS.

Charles H. Fuller's Advertising Directory of Leading Newspapers and Magazines, 1898, is a complete and perfect ready-reference book for advertisers. The information it contains is so arranged that the size of the book is brought down to the proportions of the manual, and there seem to be no omissions of essential material on that account. The classification of the publications is made on the basis of their character, and the sub-classification is by states and territories. A glance at the table of contents shows the searcher instantly what he wants, and he turns to it easily. It does not purport to be a complete newspaper directory, but points to the leading periodicals of every description—daily newspapers, Sunday newspapers, weekly and semi-weekly newspapers, magazines, monthly and semi-monthly publications, religious papers, Sunday school papers, agricultural, juvenile, medical, sporting papers, all of them the leading ones in their spheres. The circulation and advertising rates of these are given with accuracy. There are many special heads, such as foreign language lists, 50 representative daily and 50 representative weekly papers, banner list of monthlies and semi-monthlies, etc. It is published by Charles H. Fuller's Advertising Agency, Chicago, Buffalo and New York.

A "tinker's dam" has nothing to do with swearing. It is merely the dam, or stoppage, made of flour and water, with which the tinker stops the gap he is mending until the tin or pewter he is using has cooled.

HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8 cents. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRENE DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A strange plant has been discovered in India which possesses strong magnetic qualities; a magnetic needle is affected by it at a distance of twenty feet, and if touched by the hand a strong shock is felt.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.

THERE is something on the market in the shape of condensed vegetables which will simplify the housewife's difficulties and save much thought on her part during the winter months when fresh vegetables are not to be obtained except at high prices, and one must depend upon the regular winter vegetables, which lose all attractiveness after a constant diet on them. Spinach comes in a small package of about five inches square, and which is said to contain one-half peck; this is of course condensed by a process which is said to be perfectly healthful and still retains all the flavor of the fresh spinach, and yet is condensed into this small compass, and will keep indefinitely; the cost of these packages is but ten cents each, and all that has to be done is to let the contents boil in the proper amount of water the length of time indicated in the directions which come with each package, and the result is fresh spinach in all seasons, and at a very low price. Other vegetables are treated in the same way—also soups, with a much better result, so it is said, than from the canned soups familiar to us all, as no liquid is contained in the package—water being added to the dry vegetables as the soup is to be used.

We have had inquiries regarding table decorations for everyday use—and we show herewith a silver jardiniere which is useful, ornamental, strong and durable, and has another virtue, it is inexpensive. It is seven inches across the top, stands on three short legs, has a separate inside dish of metal with rings for lifting out, and yet costs but $1.89. Of course plants of the kind for table decoration are short-lived, being of the fern species, and as they are in the center of the table all the time they of course get less light and sun than plants standing nearer the window, and so do not develop as fast; but it is very easy to replace a plant as it begins to grow yellow, and thus a variety is obtained; the small ferns cost very little. A cocoa palm is the best plant for a center plant, and then the small ferns or mosses may be set in under the palm branches, which grow very straight and thus leave the stem exposed. Care should be used in the watering of these plants; they need less water than is generally supposed, and every day or two the inside pan should be emptied of any water that may have run through. A very simple meal looks quite sumptuous when there is a fresh green centerpiece on the table, yet how few housewives realize this fact; they decorate the table with cut flowers for company, but



FOR THE DINING TABLE.

never think of the everyday greenery which is such a rest to tired eyes when kept in healthy condition.

One of our readers has asked us for a new recipe for cooking halibut: we know of no positively new way for cooking this delectable fish, but we have a recipe for cheese sauce to be served with baked halibut which is delicious to those who care for cheese.

BAKED HALIBUT.

Wash and wipe two pounds of halibut and put in a pan. Pour around it one-half cup milk and bake thirty-five minutes, basting often with the milk. When done, remove skin and pour over.

CHEESE SAUCE.

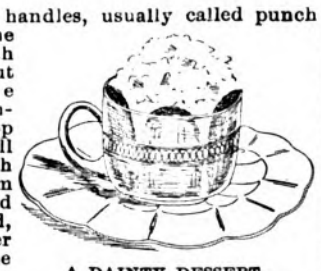
Melt one tablespoon butter, add one and one-half teaspoons cornstarch and pour on slowly three-fourths cup milk. Add one-half pound mild cheese cut fine and season with salt and pepper; when cheese melts add one egg beaten slightly.

For those who do not care for cheese, the following may be liked:

CREAM WINE SAUCE.

Melt four tablespoons butter; add four tablespoons flour and stir until slightly brown; then add two cups cream and three tablespoons sherry wine and salt and pepper to taste.

A dainty dessert after a heavy dinner is one made of lady fingers and whipped cream. Take glass cups with handles, usually called punch glasses—and line each cup with lady fingers cut in halves, the round end coming near the top of the cup. Fill the center with whipped cream piled high, and when served, pass a decanter of sherry wine to each guest, to be poured over the whole. It is not the thing at all to pour over the wine before serving, as the cake soaks up the wine and the cream loses its freshness; then, too, each guest takes just what he likes, some little and some much—and of course some would prefer simply the cake and cream without the addition of the wine. These little glass cups are very convenient to have on hand, as ices, jellies, fruit pudding and various kinds of dessert may be served in them as well as punch, lemonade, etc.



A DAINTY DESSERT.

COFFEE CUSTARDS.

Scald two cups of milk with two tablespoons ground coffee. Remove coffee and add the milk to three egg yolks slightly beaten, one-fourth cup sugar, one-eighth teaspoon salt and one-fourth teaspoon vanilla. Strain into custard cups, and bake in a pan of hot water until firm. Chill, remove from cups and cover with a meringue made of the whites of two eggs beaten until stiff, five tablespoons powdered sugar and one-fourth teaspoon vanilla.

POCKETS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



OF all the inventions of the tailor (who is of artists the most inventive), I hold the *pocket* to be one of the most indispensable. Birds have their claw, ruminating beasts their first or ante-stomach, the monkey has his cheek, the opossum her pouch, and so necessary is some convenience of this kind for the human animal, that the savage, who cares not for clothing, makes for himself a pocket if he can. The Hindoo carries his snuff-box in his turban; some of the inhabitants of the Congo make a secret fob in their woolly *toupet*, of which, as Labat says, the worst use they make is to carry poison in it. The Matotas, a long-haired race, who border upon the Caffres, form their locks into a sort of hollow cylinder, in which they bear along their little implements. The New Zealander is less ingenious; he makes a large opening in his ear, and carries his knife in it. The Ogres, those mighty heroes of the romances of bygone days, who were of course described as worse than savages, and whose ignorance and brutality were in proportion to their bulk, were said, upon the authority of tradition, when they had picked upon a stray traveler or two more than they required for supper, to lodge them in a hollow tooth as a place of security till breakfast-time; whence it may be inferred that they were not liable to toothache, and that they made no use of toothpicks. Ogres, savages, beasts, and birds, then, all require something to serve the purpose of a pocket. Thus much for the necessity of the thing. Touching its antiquity, much might be said; for it would not be difficult to show, with that little assistance from the auxiliaries *must*, and *have*, and *been*, that pockets were coeval with clothing. Moreover, Nature herself shows us the utility, the importance, nay, the indispensability of pockets.

There is but one organ which is common to all animals whatsoever. Some are without noses, some have no heads, others no tails; some neither the one nor the other; (Mine there are who have no brains; some no hearts, others very bad ones; but all have a stomach—and what is a stomach but a live inside pocket?

Pockets are the long result of time and civilization. The Greeks knew nothing about them. The Latin word *pera*, borrowed directly from the Greek, is as near "pocket" as the classical race could attain to, and the Romans had not even the *pera* till they copied it from Greece.

The *pera*, which is often mentioned by Homer, was no proper pocket, but a leathern scrip or bag hung from the shoulder. In such a scrip did Olympus store his broken meat when he was disguised as a beggar. David put five smooth stones in a scrip when he went to meet Goliath. A purse is nothing more than a small bag in which money is contained in the *pocket*, and in Turkey represents a sum of five hundred piasters. The Indian medicine-bags, called *sindjigossan* in the Ojibbeway language, were made of the skins of various animals, such as the wildcat, bear, otter and snake; and all retained more or less the shape of these wild animals, as head and tail, and sometimes legs and feet were left on. The Indians imagine that a spirit or breath is inhaled from the bags, possessing the power to blow down and kill a person, as well as to restore him to life and strength again. The scrips of the disciples every one remembers in the New Testament. The Greek, like our Teutonic ancestors, had to carry a wallet, or make what use he might of the fold of the chiton which fell over the girdle. Herodotus speaks of the fold, or *Kolpos*, in this sense; and Theocritus, when the Alexandrian public would not buy his poems, complained that they held their hands tightly under their *Kolpos*, where, no doubt, they rattled their drachmas in a vulgar and irritating manner. To such resorts was pocketless man compelled, and he was obliged to make separate sheaths or cases for articles of common use. He did without pocket handkerchiefs. He carried a bag at his side with his money in it, like Isaac, the Jew, whose bag it will be remembered was snatched away by Prince John. So long was man pocketless that in an ancient glossary of English costume, the word "pocket" does not occur at all, though we find "poke" and "pouch." "With that he pulled a dial from his poke," says Shakespeare; and this poke was probably a wallet worn at the side, or from the shoulder.

The sporan, or pouch, is a distinguishing feature of the Highland costume; but its first adoption, in its present, peculiar and ornamental form, is equally involved in mystery. A wallet, or *dorlack*, carried on the right side, was worn as early as the fourteenth century, as we have evidence in the effigy of a Knight in the cathedral church of Iona or Ilcolmkill; and some such appendage to the girdle is of very early occurrence in the costume of most nations. The tasseled sporan is, however, more like the pouch of the North American Indians than the European gypsire or aulmoniere of the middle ages, and its position in front is an additional peculiarity. Five hundred years ago a great variety of costumes was worn contemporaneously in different parts of England.

The cotehardie, which was probably imported from Flanders, was a tight garment, buttoned in front down to the hips, with its tippets or long strips of cloth depending from the elbows, and was worn by noblemen and ladies. Both, too, had girdles and *pouches*, with daggers stuck through them. These pouches, or gypsires, were made of fine leather, embroidered with silk.

The pockets in front of the lady's cotehardie were rather for show than use.

A pocket looking-glass was the common companion of the fashionables of both sexes during the reign of Elizabeth. The ladies carried it either in their pockets or hanging at their sides, and sometimes it was inserted in the fan of ostrich or other feathers—one of the most elegant appendages to the costume of the time.

In the eighth number *Gray's Inn Journal* for 1752 is an advertisement of the sale by auction "of the whole stock of a coquette leaving off trade, consisting of several valuable curiosities," etc., amongst which are mentioned "an elegant snuff-box, with a looking-glass within it, being a very good pocket-companion for a beauty." There were over thirty what are called in England, in Parliamentary language, pocket-boroughs, in which the influence of an individual or family is at least equal to, or often overpowers, that of the so-called constituency. Perhaps the best known pocket-borough in England is Newark, which will have a place in history as being the borough which first sent Mr. Gladstone to Parliament, at the instance of his and its patron, the Duke of Newcastle.

Every State in the American Union has a law against carrying concealed weapons, and yet, strange to say, every pair of trousers manufactured from Maine to California, and from the Lakes to the Mexican Gulf, has a pistol *pocket*. The word "pocket" is used in rural economy, and means a large sort of bag, in which hops are packed in order to be sold, being formed of a particular kind or quality of sacking. A pocket of *wool* is half a sack. The pocket usually contains twenty-five hundredweight of wool. In England, Pocket Sheriffs in law are nominated by the sole authority of the Crown.

Submarine Telephones.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE telephone for submarine use is a recent invention of Captain Louis Sorcho, of Baltimore. During the exploration about the wreck of the battleship *Maine*, in Havana harbor, at least six of these telephones were brought into use there, and were of the utmost service to the divers. Work on a sunken ship is extremely dangerous at any time, and under any conditions, but by the use of these telephones the diver can call for help in an emergency, and hence many lives, which would otherwise have been lost, were saved by the prompt assistance thus furnished.

The phone consists of a headgear for both diver and attendant, or tender, as he is called. This is made of elastic rubber, and fits over the top of the head and under the chin. Over the left ear is the transmitter, while the right ear is protected by a small wooden pad which shuts out all sounds from it and prevents the pain that would result were the air allowed to press upon the ear. The submarine cable, which is waterproof, passes through the front of the helmet by means of a stuffing box, and sound is so easily transmitted that the tender can readily hear anything above a whisper said by the diver.

The tender is not obliged to use his hands about the telephone and therefore has them free for handling the ropes connected with the diver under his care.

By the use of these telephones the diver can give immediate notice to his tender of any accident, fall or any other peril that may befall him, he can order anything he may need to be sent down to him, or he may have connection made with another diver, working at some distance from him, and can thus communicate readily with him on the work in hand.

The advantage to the diver and to the world of this submarine telephone cannot be overestimated. One has only to read accounts of the frightful accidents happening to divers while pursuing their dangerous occupation—accidents which might have been averted or, at least, remedied could the diver have had the use of one of these instruments—to realize the inestimable value of this invention.

When silver is badly tarnished rub with a paste made of silicon and alcohol.

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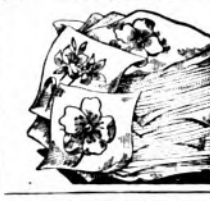


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SPECIAL FREE COUPON OFFER. To all who send six cents and this offer for three months' trial subscription to this paper we will send 2 samples of A B or E wick. Address **COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.**

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Woman as the Home Builder.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FOR years it has been an unsolved mystery to me why the planning and designing of houses has been left so entirely to the sterner sex. That they should build them is a proper thing, since their superior strength is needed for the heavy work required; and that they should be the architects of all business buildings is also to be expected, since it is principally they who are to occupy them and make use of their conveniences or inconveniences. But for the home, where the wife—the mother—is to reign supreme, a woman should, without question, be the sole architect. Man seldom understands the needs of womankind, and, if he is aware of them, he is quite as apt to call them fancies or woman's notions and ignore them, as to attempt to cater to them.

Merion Hall, at Bryn Mawr College is a striking example of this. When Dr. Rhodes, the first President of the College, was building this hall he refused to allow any closets to be made in the sleeping rooms of the students. He was urged to reconsider his decision, and was told that the young ladies must have a place to keep their clothing.

"Nonsense!" was his reply. "Girls don't come here to dress. They come to study. One gown to wear and another for a change in case of an accident to the first is all they need, and I'll have a hook put up to hold the second gown."

So it has come about that every sleeping room at Merion is cumbered with a wardrobe which not only fills up the small apartment but was an additional expense to the college.

But "times change," and people are beginning to realize that those who are to have the direction and management of a house are the proper ones, in nearly all cases, to plan them; and to give some description of a house designed and superintended in its building by a lady friend of mine is the object of this sketch. To be absolutely correct in my description I should say that this lady and her husband planned the house together; for every smallest detail of the home that was to be theirs was talked over and arranged between them on the long winter evenings preceding its erection; but the actual drawing of the plans and the superintending of their carrying out were the work of the wife.

The house is a three-story brick, the nucleus of a coming block, and is set upon the highest land in the city, where sun and air are to be had in perfection. It faces the north, and wide verandas, on every floor, extend the whole *length* of the house on the southern side. The two lower ones are, of course, roofed over by the floor of the one above, while the upper one has a roof of its own. Strong iron railings protect these verandas in front, while windows, reaching from floor to ceiling, give access to them from the various rooms. Here the little children of the family play summer and winter; here the beds are brought out on the hot nights of a Washington summer, and the family sleep in the open air, unmindful of the heat within the house.

In the front basement, which is on a level with the street, is an arched entrance for wheels, terminating in a room devoted especially to their use. Here is to be found every convenience for cleaning and otherwise caring for them.

The floors of this woman's house are of hard wood, waxed and polished to a nicety, and wiped every day with a dry flannel cloth. Even the closet floors receive equal care; a low shelf, raised only a few inches from the floor, holds the boots and shoes of the family, and nothing is allowed to cumber the closet floor, to need moving about when it is wiped.

In the nursery, which is on the southern side of the house, is a set of low shelves where the playthings of the children are kept, and they are taught to pick up their toys and replace them on these shelves when they are through using them. A most delightful part of the day's occupation to these children is to help mamma to clear up this room and brush up the floor just before the time that papa is expected home to dinner. The closet in this room is devoted largely to sewing materials, as this mother makes of the nursery her sewing room, and so keeps herself with her little ones as much as possible. The closet is about eight feet deep by four feet in width, and the whole of one of the long sides is occupied by shelves, drawers and pigeonholes. The pigeonholes, two tiers of them, are used for patterns, pieces, and little garments which the children have outgrown, and which are to be given away. Below these are two wide, long shelves, devoted to work of various kinds, garments to be mended, and garments in daily use by the children. Still lower are deep drawers, devoted to materials for garments and to the little partly-made dresses. Above all are boxes holding the necessary "findings"—hooks and eyes, whalebones, spare needles and spools of cotton, and the thousand and one articles which are a necessity to the seamstress, but which so cumber up a workbasket when kept "lying around."

Dust shoots leading to the basement have openings in every room in the house, so there is no excuse for dirt, torn papers or waste baskets. A shoot for soiled clothes also extends from the third floor to the basement, with openings on each floor. The house is heated by hot water, and the gas is lighted by electricity, so no matches are allowed about the house within reach of childish fingers. Nearly every room has its open fireplace, and that in the front hall, which is the one most frequently used, has a dump in its floor through which the ashes are dropped into a great receptacle for them in the cellar at the base of the chimney. This dump removes the necessity of handling the ashes and of carrying them through the house, and thus saves much dust and dirt in the rooms. The reservoir for ashes in the cellar is so large that it requires to be emptied only once a year.

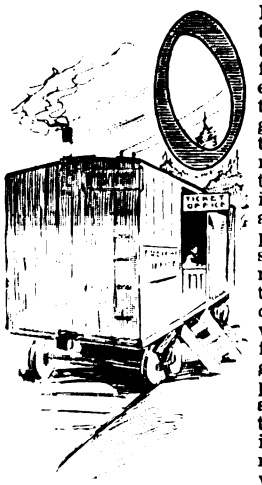
The front hall, with its open fireplace, its couches piled with pillows, its brilliant light and its comfortable chairs is a favorite sitting place in the evenings after the little ones are in bed. An arched passageway separates it from the front door, and shields its occupants from all draughts from the door.

In the kitchen the same careful thought and planning have been exercised. A tightly fitting swing door without a latch connects it with the dining-room. A gas range is used for cooking, thus doing away with the dust, labor and ashes of a coal burner. A table for use in preparing vegetables, rolling pastry or kneading bread stands in one corner. This table has a top of strong, heavy glass, such as is used for pavements over basements, and is almost absolutely unbreakable. Its chief advantage lies, however, in the fact that it is so easily kept clean. Of course it is perfectly impervious to grease or stains, and there are no cracks in its surface to furnish a hotbed for "germs." In the pantry, adjoining the kitchen, is another glass shelf for use in cutting bread and cake, but as this is made of plate glass it is not so strong as the one in the kitchen. In the pantry, also, are two lifts or elevators, on which any desired article from a glass of water to a basket of wood can be sent anywhere up and down the house. The smaller one of the two is principally used for the transmission of food to and from the refrigerator in the basement.

These are only a few of the many devices for the health, comfort and saving of steps in this admirably planned house; and all this was not only largely designed by a woman but was also in a great measure carried out by her. Her husband was away on business during most of the time that the house was being built, and upon the wife devolved most of the responsibility of overseeing and directing the workmen.

Narrow Gauge Railroads of the Oil Fields.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONE of the necessities, as well as one of the most picturesque features of the northern oil fields, during the time of their greatest activity, were the narrow gauge railroads. They interested the country in every direction, and were built in preference to the standard gauge railroad on account of the mountainous condition of the country which they were forced to traverse, the grade being in some places two hundred and sixty-five feet to the mile. No filling in was done; all the ravines and gullies were bridged by hemlock trestle work, and the space between the ties was ballasted by dirt dug out of the ditches.

The traffic and trade over these roads in Pennsylvania and neighboring oil districts during the boom of the oil wells was simply enormous. For instance, the Alleghany Central's freight receipts during the first thirty days after the completion of the road amounted to twelve thousand dollars, and that was before a station was built. A box car was utilized for both ticket and freight office, and the telegraphic instrument was screwed to a dry-goods box in one corner of the car. The passenger traffic equaled the freight. Nine passenger trains and five freight trains were run over the road every day. At this time Richburg was a town of eight thousand inhabitants, and boasted of a morning and an evening paper, two banks, a hundred stores, hotels, a dozen doctors, as many lawyers, nearly a hundred public bars, dance houses, and everything else necessary for a first-class boom city in the oil country. One of the lawyers there earned three thousand dollars in fees during the first three months of his residence in Richburg.

As soon as the oil boom began to wane the narrow gauge roads also diminished in profits. Both freights and passengers fell away rapidly, and now, of all the moving railroad life of that time hardly a trace remains. Richburg has scarcely four hundred inhabitants, and the Alleghany Central, the last bit remaining of the narrow gauge railroads in this region, is merged in the New York Central, and that branch of it running into Richburg has entirely disappeared. Richburg is now connected with the outside world only by stage line.

Of the other railroads used by the oil companies, some have been sold, torn up, and their material transported to other railroads, and some have been transformed into ordinary standard gauge railroads.

Many of these roads were run through the midst of farms, and the land on which they were built was purchased of the owners at fancy prices. When the roads were demolished the land was reclaimed and cultivated by its original possessor, and all traces of its public use have been thereby obliterated.

One of the queerest railroads ever built in the oil regions, or, indeed, anywhere else, was the Peg Leg railroad. This was a single railroad, about five miles in length, and ran from Bradford to Derrick City. Oak spiles were driven into the ground ten feet apart, on the top of these a heavy timber was bolted, and on this the rail was spiked and fish-plated. Guard rails were placed on each side of the spile, about three feet from the top. The cars rested on two wheels, one at each end of the car, and hung from the rail by these, one on each side of the rail, like saddle-bags.

The engine was as odd as the cars or the road, being placed on the road somewhat after the same fashion as the cars, and looking, as the Irishman said, "loike a pair of boots on a clothesline, shure!"

This road was completed in January, 1878. The roadbed was almost entirely straight, having very few curves, but the road and equipments cost forty-six thousand dollars—one car alone costing three thousand dollars. From the first there was much trouble with the engines, and many were the breakdowns. At last, only a year from the time the road was put in operation, while making trial of a new kind of engine, the boiler blew up, killing and mutilating many of the men on board. This finished its career, for, being of so abnormal a build, the road was feared and disliked by the train hands, and after this serious accident none could be found willing to work upon it. It was therefore never repaired, and was soon after disposed of at a sheriff's sale for a small sum. The rails were stripped off, and the famous Peg Leg railroad became a thing of the past.

An Immense Wine Bottle.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AN immense tank, holding five hundred thousand gallons has recently been built on the banks of the Russian river near Asti, California. It is, like the ancient and renowned Heidelburg tun, intended for the storage of the grape juice when first expressed from the grape, but it far exceeds in size that venerable vat, which held only fifty thousand gallons. London has tanks holding one hundred thousand gallons of wine each, San Francisco boasts one holding one hundred and fifty gallons, and Merced can pour into hers two hundred thousand gallons, but they are all far behind the capacity of Asti's enormous subterranean lake, or bottle, as it might properly be called, for it is completely glazed within.

The rocky valley of the Russian river has been utilized for the walls of this tank, for an excavation has been made in the solid rock of the proper size for the reservoir. Next a wall of concrete, two feet in thickness, was put over the floor and sides, the cover being also lined with concrete. A lining of pure cement was put over this, and the whole glazed until it was as smooth and impermeable as glass. The cover was fitted on, and three feet of earth heaped above it in which grass seed was sown, and the whole thing shows nothing to the outside world but a huge mound of earth. A manhole, three feet in diameter, admits a workman to the interior when necessary for cleansing or other purposes.

The grape juice is pumped into the tank through two four-inch pipes, and the wine, when properly fermented, is run off through six-inch pipes which communicate with the twenty-five gallon wooden tanks in which the wine is aged before being barreled and shipped. This immense wine cask is one hundred and four feet long, thirty-four feet wide and twenty-four feet high. It is buried in the ground in order to maintain a cool, even temperature for its contents during the period of fermentation; and it is thought, too, that the mingling of so large a number of gallons of the grape juice will give a better flavor to the wine. The value of the wine contained in it when full is reckoned at one hundred thousand dollars.

Electricity vs. Horses.



THERE are arguments for and against the use of horses for street cars. The poor horse had a hard time drawing heavily loaded cars up hill or on slippery roads, and it is not nearly so distressing to watch the cars glide along by electricity as it was to see the overworked horse tugging at a big load.

But electricity as a motive power has made havoc with the sale of horses and the raising of hay and grain for the market. It is said that electric railways have displaced about two hundred seventy-five thousand horses already. That number of horses would require about one hundred twenty-five thousand bushels of corn or oats a day. The decrease in the demand for these grains seriously affects the farmer, as it amounts to forty-five million bushels a year. Furthermore, this means a great loss to railroad traffic, as that amount of grain would require about sixty-two thousand five hundred cars a year for shipment.

Ladies.—Send to Mrs. E. Wales, Toledo, O., for free package of Clover Blossom. Cures all female diseases.

LADIES. Electricity cures all ills. A foot battery free. Particulars of Tioga Specialty Co., Phila., Pa.

THE POOR MAN'S CHANCE to get a good start in life, and become independent. Address with stamp, BOX 305, East Palestine, Ohio.

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MUSIC OFFER.

In order to secure subscribers and introduce our popular high grade sheet music into every home, we will send you **on sale** a supply free. You only have to make **six sales** and the watch will be yours. What we send you will be full size, complete and unabridged **Sheet Music.** The quality is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. This sheet music is equal to any published. Being printed in **million lots** we can afford to have you sell the **latest and best** and most popular pieces at **marvelously unheard** of low prices. Some pieces much less than 5c. a copy. We make money on future sales and now give you this elegant Watch free for your slight trouble. **All we ask** for protection is for you to send 15c. as **a deposit** to help pay subscription and mailing expenses on first assorted lot of music sent you to sell. When you remit money to us from your first sales you hold back this 15c. as we pay all packing, mailing and express charges ourselves. All you do is to collect the required amount of money for music sent you and remit to us. We then send you **the watch entirely free.** The watch is guaranteed and warranted to satisfy you. Don't fail to enclose the 15c. deposit and you will get your assorted lot of sheet music by return mail. Address,

Earn This Watch. Sheet Music on Sale In Your Home.



LANE MUSIC CO., Box G, Augusta, Maine.

PROVERBS WHICH ARE "COMFORTING."

Chickens should not be counted before they are hatched.
Dinners cannot be long where dainties are wanting.
He who depends on another dines ill and supe worse.
It is foolish to quarrel with one's bread and butter.
A young man loves meat that an old man dislikes.
Better lose a supper than have a hundred doctors.
Dry bread at home is better than roast meat abroad.
No one knows what's in a pie till the lid is off.
Better have some of a pudding than none of a pie.
Who has enough spice may season his meat as he likes.
Oysters are best in months that have an "R" in them.
To frighten a fowl is not the way to catch it.
The proof of the pudding is in the eating.
Children are certain cares, but uncertain comforts.
The father is the guest that best becomes a table.
On St. Valentine's day a good goose should lay.
Winter finds out what summer has laid up.
A sooty chimney costs many a beefsteak.
What is done well enough is done quick enough.
A cracked plate may last as long as a sound one.
Little sticks kindle a fire, great ones put it out.
Time is the most precious of all possessions.
Save while you may for age and want.
They must hunger in frost who will not work in heat.
He who serves well need not fear to ask his wages.
The poor man fasts because he has no meat.
The rich man fasts because he will not eat.
Eating and drinking should not keep men from thinking.
Men seldom repent of eating too little.
A husband's wrath spoils the best broth.
A wife's art is displayed in a table well laid.
Be not the first by whom the new is tried.
Be not the last to cast the old aside.
A blind man should not judge of colors.
A bad servant will never make a good master.
None are so good as they ought to be.
None are so bad as they are said to be.

It is said that sulphur worn in the shoes is a sure preventive against yellow fever. It is also said that persons who work in match factories are never attacked by grippe. Sulphur worn in the shoes is also said to be a cure for rheumatism.

There is a cat that goes hunting at Hoisington, Kan. It makes its home in the roundhouse, where a railroad man placed it to get warm one day when he found it half frozen in the street. The man made a practice of shooting birds for it, and now the cat will follow for a mile or more any man who carries a gun, and at the sound of a shot will run for the bird.

Housewives in Norway and Sweden have started a scheme to encourage servants to remain in their places. Mistresses pay into a general fund whatever they can afford for every servant that has remained with them for 12 months. The money is registered in the servant's name, so that when age overtakes her, and she can no longer work, she has a comfortable annuity to fall back on.

Silverware Premiums.

We have a fine line of Triple Plate **Silver Cake Baskets, Butter Dishes, etc.,** which we are offering as Holiday presents to club raisers for "COMFORT."

The Cake Baskets which we illustrate on page 23, are giving great satisfaction. We have just secured a new and fresh lot of these goods and can now supply any quantity as long as they last. It makes no difference what part of the country they go it is the same story of delight as you will see by sample testimonials.

A lady in Burlington, Montana, Lizzie Lander by name, says she was much pleased with her Cake Basket which arrived safely November 15th and was going to send for more goods at once.

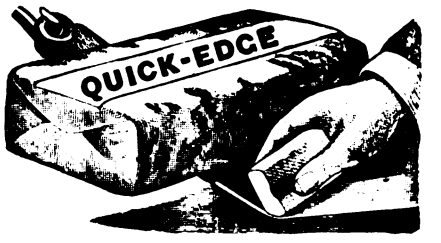
Quite Near New York City.

Mrs. H. Acherson, of Allendale, N. J., writes November 13th, that the Silver Cake Basket we sent her was a beauty. She was so much pleased with it that she is getting up a club for the Premium Butter Dish.

Any one in need of Holiday Presents can get them free by getting up clubs to COMFORT. Send for subscription blanks, full Premium Catalogue, extra copies, etc., at once.

QUICK-EDGE

For Razors and all Tools that Require a Razor Edge



Quick-Edge will sharpen the dullest Razor in two minutes and give it a fine smooth cutting edge. If **Quick-Edge** is used your razor will always be sharp and never need honing. It makes old razors good as new, and is warranted not to injure the finest razor in the least. Don't pay 25 cents to have your razor honed when a cake of **Quick-Edge** will keep it in perfect order for years.

Quick-Edge will put a fine smooth cutting razor edge on any tool in one-tenth the time it takes to sharpen it in any other way. Razors and all edge tools will hold their edge three times as long, and cut better. Why? Because **Quick-Edge** is a scientific preparation and makes a smooth strong edge that will cut well, and wear well. Every man who shaves needs **Quick-Edge**, every family, every shop, and every factory has some edge tools that needs **Quick-Edge.** Anyone can use it successfully, and full directions come with every cake. The price is 15 cents a cake. Agents can sell it to almost every man, and at nearly every house. If you sell 100 cakes a day, your profit is $8.75. Many agents are doing as well. If you need work order a dozen or a gross and try the business; if you do not need work, order a cake, and know the luxury of having a razor, a knife or other edge tool always in order, sharp and ready for use.

Price: **One cake, 15 cents, postpaid; one dozen cakes, $1.00 postpaid; one gross cakes, $6.00** by express. Address, GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

NO MAN YOUNG, MIDDLE-AGED or OLD, should fail to procure at once the *Valuable Medical Book*, published and sent free to any address, by the

Bellevue Medical Institute, Chicago, Ill.

It describes, plainly and briefly, the cause, symptoms and progress of certain affections relating to the nervous system, blood and genito-urinary organs, giving information leading to the permanent and positive cure of these diseases, and demonstrating the unhappy results of incompetent or neglected treatment.

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Uncle Sam's Soldiers at Home.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ROUSELY at 5.15 each morning the clear, resonant tones of the bugle may be heard, ringing out first call and a few minutes later, as old Sol rises from his bed among the hills, the deep boom of the morning gun announces to all for miles around that another day's duty has begun. After "Gun Fire" comes "Reveille" which is played by the buglers in unison and then "Assembly" which means that every man must be in line in front of his company quarters to answer the first morning roll call. Fifteen minutes are consumed in the above. Roll call over, the men retire to their quarters and perform their morning ablutions. Every window in the squad-room is thrown open; every bed and blanket is folded in uniformity; each man sweeps under his own individual bed, the room orderly sweeps down the center of the room and in a few minutes, the squad-room is as bright and shining as the beautiful clear morning itself, and Uncle Sam's Fighters are ready to commence an attack on the morning meal.

At six o'clock comes the welcome "Mess Call," the companies "fall in," are marched by the senior noncommissioned officer present to the Mess Hall, march to their own respective tables without confusion, the command "Be seated" is given, and without further parley, charge with appetites, a brigade strong upon the viands prepared for them. Oatmeal, corn beef hash, stewed tomatoes, bread and butter and good strong coffee, compose the breakfast menu, and is a fair sample of the usual morning meal.

Breakfast over, the men return to their quarters. At 6.30 first call for drill is sounded, and assembly at 7 o'clock sharp. The first drill is always calisthenic or "setting up" exercises and the men go through them with a vigor that speaks well for their love of physical training and athletics. Sometimes this drill is varied by a run round the post, or athletic exercises in the spacious gymnasium. These variations are hugely appreciated by the men. After 30 minutes of vigorous work "Recall" is sounded and the men return to their quarters perspiring and ready for rest.

In a few minutes, one will observe some of the men rise from their bunks, as they call them, delve into a large brown canvas bag, called a barracks bag, hung behind their cot, and procuring therefrom buttor-sticks, burnishing chain, brushes and other articles used in the soldier's cleaning kit, go to work burnishing, shining and cleaning their accoutrements, clothes and equipments, until they absolutely sparkle with the high polish produced.

These men are those whose names are on the detail for guard that day, and they have polished and burnished so that they may be able to pass the critical eye of the inspecting officer at guard mount. Every man in the Post takes an interest in the mounting of the guard, for each company vies with the other in the turning out the cleanest and most creditable detail.

First call for "Guardmount" is sounded at 8.45, a moment or two later the details may be seen issuing from their quarters, shining from head to foot, in their immaculate cleanliness, and careful not to brush against anything that would leave the most minute speck of dirt upon them.

Every eye in the Post is upon them, and that they realize it, may be seen by the proud manner in which each detail marches down the Main Parade, where they can be ready to "Fall in" when "Assembly" sounds.

Sharp at 9 o'clock the trumpeter sounds the "Assembly," the band strikes up a lively march and the details are marched to the parade ground, where the Serg't Major forms the guard and turns it over to the Post Adjutant who inspects them, the band playing an air or two while the inspection takes place.

After the guard has been inspected, the Adjutant picks out the cleanest man, for the Commanding Officer's orderly, which is the most desirable position on the guard, and is therefore greatly sought after, and marches the Guard in Review and then to the Guard House, where the old Guard, who have been on duty the preceding twenty-four hours is relieved by the members of the new Guard.

Immediately after Guardmount the fine Regimental Band proceeds to the band stand and for over an hour strains of sweet music delight the ear.

At 10.30 the men again assemble for drill, this time by battalion or regiment, and an interested visitor can watch them practicing every movement in the tactics, to the evident disadvantage of an imaginary enemy, the corresponding satisfaction of the officers, and the great bewilderment of the uninitiated visitor.

Regimental or Battalion drills generally take place on some large open field just outside the Post. When the recall from drill sends its welcome notes across the fields, it is indeed welcome, for panting and perspiring under the "Heavy Marching Order" load in which these drills are sometimes performed, every man, officer and private is glad of the opportunity to rest.

Stripped to the waist the men snatch a hasty rest until dinner call is sounded and then proceed, as they did for breakfast, to the mess hall where they partake of the following meal: Tomato soup, roast beef, potatoes, stewed turnips, boiled beans, bread pudding, bread and coffee.

After dinner, those men not on duty either retire to their quarters for a siesta, or go for a long ramble through the picturesque country surrounding the Fort. Those men who have not served one enlistment (three years), and have not graduated from the public school previous to enlistment are compelled to attend the Post school from one to four P. M., where an excellent corps of teachers is maintained, and where any soldier with more than ordinary ambition, can secure all the advantages of a first-class educational institution.

The day is nearly over, but the soldier's work is not yet entirely completed. Promptly at 5.45 P. M. First Call again sounds, the men re-commence their polishing, and don their dresscoats, "Straight Jackets," as they term the abominably tight things, for "Dress Parade," which is the ceremony par excellence of the day.

At Regimental Dress Parade the officer commanding the Post takes charge, the companies are formed into battalions and from that into regimental front, the band takes position on the right of the line, the commanding officer receives the battalion and company officers, puts the regiment through the manual of arms and brings them to "Parade Rest." At this moment the evening gun is fired, the Buglers of the Regiment sound "Retreat," and the regimental colors are hauled down while the band plays the "Star Spangled Banner."

The companies are then marched past in review after which they are dismissed and with the exception of the members of the Guard and some others on special duty, the soldier's work for the day is done.

Dances in the mess hall, or parties in the homes of some of the married men, the spacious reading rooms in the Post Library, all kinds of athletic games, band concerts, and many other diversions aid in passing away the long hours of the evening until "Taps," which sounds at 11 P. M., at which time all soldiers not away on pass must be in the barracks.

Altogether, the soldier's life is by no means either idle or monotonous. Interested in all questions of the day, a reader of the papers, an ardent lover of sports, he finds plenty with his regular duties to occupy his time, and his duties are no sinecure, for besides doing guard for twenty-four hours once every ten or twelve days, he must take his turn at room orderly, during which time he is responsible for the cleanliness and order of his squad-room; as kitchen police or cook's assistant; waiter in the mess hall and in general or other fatigues. The latter means he must work for one whole day each week or so in aid to keep the post which he lives in—to use a witty officer's expression, "A place of beauty and glory forever."

Sunflowers.



THE sunflower has never been looked upon as a very desirable flower to cultivate, but its uses are coming to be known more generally, and it may not be many years before it will be largely cultivated by farmers or by those who have a little land. There is no plant that grows so vigorously and rapidly, and has such an enormous yield of seed as well as of leaves and stock, all of which can be used. The plant is hardy as well and will yield fifty bushels of seed to the acre. This will give fifty gallons of oil worth one dollar a gallon. The seeds are especially good as food for fowls, and when mixed with grain, farm animals like them. The stalks make good fuel. The Orientals mix dried sunflower leaves with their tobacco, and from the flowers make a yellow dye. The flowers also contain a good deal of honey and wax, and so would be a valuable aid to bee-raising.

Modern Cave Dwellers.



THERE is an island, or rock in Behring straits, 30 miles off the shores of Alaska at Port Clarence, inhabited by about two hundred cave dwellers. The village presents a most curious appearance, their caves being built over and under and to the right and left, closely nestled against a cliff. These curious people live on seal and walrus meat, and whale blubber.

ANY WOMAN MAY BE BEAUTIFUL

if she will read the Ladies' Guide to Beauty with its wealth of simple rules and recipes for attaining great beauty. Written by a lady of the Court of France and now published for the benefit of every woman who wishes to be beautiful. We will send a copy free to every lady who will send us six cents to pay for a trial three months' subscription and postage. The greatest common-sense adviser ever given to ladies. SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

"Old Glory," as known to-day—that is, with the thirteen red and white stripes representing the thirteen original states, and a white star on a blue ground for each present state,—was first officially declared on June 14, 1877.

SENT FREE TO MEN



Free Trial packages of a most remarkable remedy for sexual weakness are being distributed by the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back or varicocele, can now cure themselves at home.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location, giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that comes from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 558 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages, will be complied with. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated, and the free trial package will enable men to see how easy it is to be cured when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarrassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

Between our cabinet and other makes? These cuts speak plainer than words. **Our New 1900 Style Quaker Folding Vapor Bath Cabinet has a Door,** has a self-supporting steel frame, galvanized, covering of antiseptic, hygienic cloth, **rubber lined.** Cabinet does not rest on the shoulders, nor pull over your head. No woodwork to warp. To operate, simply open door, step in, bathe, cool off, step out. Only perfect Cabinet made. Folded it is 3 in. thick, 15 in. wide, 16 in. long, weighs only 5 lbs. Patented. **526,000 sold. Recommended by Best Physicians** for bathing purposes. It opens the pores, sweats out the poisons, makes you clean, strong, vigorous and healthy. **Cures bad cold with one bath.** Cures rheumatism, lagrippe, insomnia, obesity, female troubles, all blood skin, nerve and kidney diseases. **Immediate Relief Guaranteed in Worst Cases. Cabinet, Frame, Stove, Formulas and Directions sent anywhere upon receipt of $5.00.** Face Steaming attachment, $1.00 extra. **Order today.** You won't be disappointed. **It's guaranteed as represented, or money refunded.** We are responsible. Capital $100,000.00. Largest manufacturers of Bath Cabinets in the world. **Write us any way.**

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We recommend above firm as thoroughly reliable.—EDITOR.

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Not Ours. Goods don't roll back like shown in cut. Cabinet must be lifted and pulled over your head. Folded its over 3 ft. long, 2 ft. wide **Can't be Carried.**

No Door. Dangerous.

Not Ours. Store Box, Wood Frame, Cracks, Warps. Weighs 20 lbs. Folded it's 3½ ft. long, 2½ ft. wide. **Can't be Carried.**

AGENTS WANTED, MEN AND WOMEN. $100.00 a Month and Expenses.

Address, **F. B. WORLD MANUFACTURING CO., Cincinnati, O.**

MACARONI.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MACARONI is an Italian invention, and, although imitated in other countries, notably in France and England, has never yet been produced so successfully anywhere else. It is made from wheaten flour, and the wheat raised in Southern Europe is said to possess a greater amount of gluten than that of other countries, and is therefore better adapted to the manufacture of macaroni.

The wheat, after being washed in mountain streams is ground between mill-stones and then sifted five separate times; the last sifting giving the finest and most delicate flour that can be made, and which is called *semola*. This last sifting, or semola, is used for the manufacture of the macaroni of commerce. This flour is placed in a trough lined with iron and enough boiling water is mixed with it for kneading purposes.

The kneading is done by machinery, two men being required to propel the millstone which does the work, while a third man stands by to replace the dough under the millstone as it is driven out by the weight upon it. Sometimes the kneading is done by means of a wooden pole attached to a post fixed in the ground and worked up and down as a lever, under one end of which the paste is placed. Still another and less agreeable method is employed for the cheaper grades of macaroni intended for home consumption; the dough being kneaded by the bare feet of men and boys. This method, however, is never employed in the manufactories where the article is prepared for export.

After being sufficiently kneaded the dough is placed in an iron cylinder having holes in the bottom through which the paste is forced by pressure, a workman cutting off the pieces of the desired length as they come through the holes. To make the pieces hollow a wire extends down through the round hole in the bottom of the cylinder. Cylinders with different sized holes in their bottom are used for making the different grades of the article—the largest size being known as *macaroni*, the next as *vermicelli* (little worms), and the smallest as *fedelini*.

The dough is slightly baked while passing through the cylinders, and is afterwards placed on canes or horizontal poles to dry thoroughly. It requires about twenty minutes to knead the dough, and from two to four hours to dry it, according to the state of the atmosphere. It is carefully watched during this process, to prevent its drying too rapidly, as, if the outer surface became dry before the inside, the macaroni would be brittle. It is then placed in a damp cellar for twenty-four hours "to rest."

After being taken from the cellar it is exposed to the sun for a day, and then wrapped in paper and packed in boxes.

ASTROLOGY tells all. Life Horoscope, 20c. Send date of birth and sex. Prof. Edison, C, Binghamton, N. Y.

Rubber Goods of every description. Cat'lg free. Edwin Mercer & Co. Toledo, O.

Rubber Goods price list sent sealed on application. Home Medical Co., Box 278, Rochester, N.Y.

BED WETTING CURED. TRIAL FREE. Mrs. B. ROWAN, Milwaukee, Wis.

LADIES wanted everywhere to mail circulars, samples and copy letters at home. Reply with stamped envelope. PEERLESS COMPANY, South Bend, Indiana.

LADIES MAKE BIG MONEY selling our Mackintoshes, Dress Shields, Skirt Supporters and other useful articles. Catalogue free. Universal Supply Co., 59 Dearborn St., Chicago.

RUBBER Goods and necessary specialties for women and children. Agents 48 page cat. free. VENUS MFG. CO., Chicago.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

WONDERFUL WALKING DOLLS.



A Marvelous Mechanical Curiosity has lately been invented in the doll line. Although made of metal there are no springs to be wound or other encumbering contrivances to get out of order. A simple scientific appliance. They walk naturally and alone as if by some hidden force. Not only are children delighted, but even the happy boyhood and girlhood days are brought back to the older ones who shake their sides and simply roar to see the **Great Race of Races** as these dolls representing the various male and female characters of different nations are started across the room or table. The life-like manner in which they seem to run past each other in the mad haste to win, or marching single file, tripping each other up or executing other comical feats. The contrast of the different colored jackets or suits, while the Soldier, Chinaman, Negro or little Dollie herself speeds along, adds much to the novelty and enjoyment of the whole family of lookers on. We have secured the right to introduce this wonderful family to the millions all over the Union. To do so quickly and relying on future large sales for our profit, we will send one **FREE**, all charges paid, to any one sending 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription or renewal to our beautiful magazine. Any kind of dolls always please the children but **Genuine Walking Dolls** are a joy forever. Address **Publishers of COMFORT,** Augusta, Maine.

A year's subscription and 2 dolls, 50 cents. Get a club of 3 yearly subscribers at 25 cents each and we will send you 3 dolls, all different, **FREE.**

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AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN.

THIS ROLLER ORGAN PLAYS ANY TUNE arranged for it, from a Waltz to a Hymn, with perfect tune and time. Gives better satisfaction than a HUNDRED-DOLLAR PARLOR ORGAN and ten times more pleasure. Plays more than 1,000 tunes in a superb manner and charms every listener. The grandest and most marvelous musical instrument ever presented to the public. THE NEW AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN is operated upon a similar plan to the FINEST FRENCH MUSIC-BOXES. The instrument is thoroughly made. No better work is found in the most expensive musical machinery. A child can operate it. WILL NEVER WEAR OUT. This instrument is the Perfection of musical ingenuity and PLAYS SACRED MUSIC, MARCHES, WALTZES, POLKAS, JIGS, REELS, Selections from Operas, Popular Songs, Church Music, as well as any organ, and is arranged for DANCE MUSIC perfectly. YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INSTRUMENTS. Nothing grander or combining so many features can be found in French or Swiss Music-boxes, costing $100. WE WANT A SPECIAL AGENT, EITHER SEX, IN EVERY LOCALITY, TO SELL OUR REMEDIES, AND OFFER SUCH INDUCEMENTS THAT EARNEST WORKERS CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE $100 to $300 PER MONTH. When you order a sample instrument ask for Special Terms.



These instruments will be offered for FIVE DOLLARS, IN BEAUTIFULLY CARVED CASES, with music. Send for one. It will fill you with astonishment and delight. If you want it sent C. O. D. send **$1.50** when you order and pay balance **$3.50** when you get organ. Send P. O. Order, Registered Letter or Express Money-order.

We will include a year's subscription to this paper to every one who sends the money in full for an organ. Perhaps you would like to get one and pay us for it in a few hours' work. If such is the case you may raise a club of 32 subscribers to this paper at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, or a club of 17 at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, and we will send you the Roller Organ to pay you for your trouble. **Address, SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**

A UNIQUE INVENTION.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

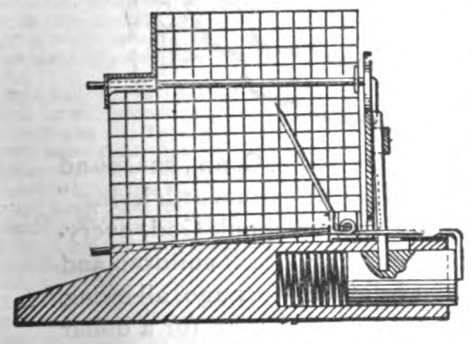


THAT there is nothing new under the sun," is an adage old, though, so far as it concerns the Patent Office, its truth must be questioned, nay—further than that, it must be seriously doubted, in fact, denied. If there is any one place on the face of this terrestrial sphere where there is always something new turning up, it is at the United States Patent Office at Washington. Though, too, it oftentimes happens that things turn up there which, in the minds of the poor, enthusiastically deluded inventors, are just the things that the world has been setting back and waiting for, yea, eagerly and impatiently longing for—whereas an inspection of the prior state of the art will disclose the fact that "there are others" in prolific profusion. By the "state of the art," the uninitiated is to understand is meant the work that has been done by inventors along the line of any particular branch of any of the industrial arts, so that when an inventor applies to the Patent Office for a patent, and, as most all of them do at first, wants the earth (well fenced and terraced), and claims every thing in sight, he is given numerous citations of the earlier patents as references, and is made to mend that part of his application known technically as the "claims," to cover in clear and specific language that part of the device which he believes himself or the office shows him to be inventor of.

It is not a common occurrence for an inventor to secure a patent for a new device without numerous official citations and rejections, and the inventor who is able to rush his case through at the first trial, without having the patent to Smith called to his notice, or Brown's invention cited for his edification and guidance, is a fortunate individual indeed.

Such an inventor turned up recently with an invention of such a novel and radical nature, that, when the readers of "COMFORT" learn its character they will cease to wonder at this inventor's success in expediting the final and favorable disposition of his case.

This remarkable invention is termed an "Ani-



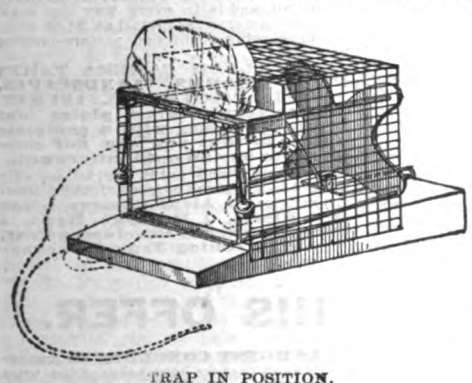
SIDE SECTION.

mal Trap," though, it is not, strictly speaking, a trap, although it well takes the place of that artistic and necessary piece of household furniture, a rat trap. The idea in view, in the manufacture of this trap—the "humane trap," it is called—is not to capture or kill the animal, but merely to attach to it in a secure and 'not-to-be-shook' manner, an elastic band bearing articles of a terrifying nature, such as bells, phosphorescent tufts, etc., and then allowing the animal to go free, to run around among its comrades and by its outlandish and unseemly conduct to scare the other animals away from the neighborhood. Thus the familiar nursery story—of how the old rat, to which a bell had been attached, was allowed to return to his accustomed haunts for the purpose of driving away the other rats, is made to serve as the basis for this latest novelty.

As will be seen from the illustrations, the trap is constructed by taking a block of wood which forms the base, and mounting thereupon a cage-like structure of wire, the cage being left open at both ends. In the rear of the base a recess is formed in which is carried a spring-pressed slide, from which extends upwardly an arm carrying, in a vertical position, a flat metal plate—these several parts being adapted to be moved forward against the tension of the spring and held in a set position by a suitable catch and trigger mechanism.

Horizontally mounted on the movable plate the four pins or rods which project in a forward direction, one from each corner of the plate, to the four corners of the open front of the cage, and the pins are adapted to project outward a short distance from the front of the cage when the trap is set—but are withdrawn when the tripping-trigger is sprung and the plate and pins moved inwardly, thus forming a hollow square at the front of the trap, through which the animal must pass in order to reach the bait within. A bait trigger is pivoted within the trap above the recess in the base, and an arm extends rearwardly from this trigger and carries a catch for holding the slide in a set or forward position against the power of the compressed spring.

As above stated, the pins project out beyond the front of the trap-cage—one from each corner—and over the ends of these four pins is



TRAP IN POSITION.

stretched an elastic band to form a hollow square, within which the animal's body rests when it attempts to take the bait from the trigger. The bands which are snapped around the body of the beast, are provided with bells for sounding an alarm, or phosphorescent plumes for the purpose of creating consternation and dread among the occupants of the dark runways through which the frightened, and frightening, animal passes.

When a rat enters the open front of the trap, its body is entirely surrounded by the outstretched elastic band, and when the bait trigger is molested, the spring slide—carrying the plate and projecting pins—is released, and, under the impulse of the spring, the plate is suddenly given a rearward movement and the pins are instantly withdrawn from the hollow square formed by the elastic, and the band is snapped securely around the body of the now thoroughly frightened animal, who at once makes a dash for the nearest hole and then continues on a mad round of its accustomed runways, growing more terrified and gaining speed at every bound, and, by reason of the tinkling bells and the fantastic appearance of the waving plumes—which glow in the inky darkness of the favorite runways and tunnels of the swiftly traveling rodent—the other rats become so alarmed that they immediately show signs of vacating the premises and searching for pastures new and quarters more congenial; with the result that they are soon out of the neighborhood, and the house that once knew them well after several such treatments, knows them no more.

BLUE LAKE FARM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WAY out in the southern part of Idaho on the Snake river, twenty miles south of the town of Shoshone, lies one of the wonders of nature which has been transformed by the skill, ingenuity and industry of man into a smiling, fruitful valley. The place was called, by the first white men who visited it, the "Devil's Corral," and was then a wide deep hole in the ground, seven hundred feet deep, and containing eight hundred acres of bottom land, its immense walls of volcanic rock rent and torn by some convulsion of Nature. For ages it had lain undisturbed by man save when some wild Indian wandered there in search of game. Its steep walls of rock rendered it almost inaccessible even to them, and it was regarded with superstitious reverence by the simple children of the forest.

At length it occurred to a half breed Indian that gold might be found in its fastnesses of rock, and, accompanied by his Indian wife and two children, he clambered into its depths and made a home there. His mining operations never proved very successful, but his presence there attracted Burt Perrine, an adventurous young man from Indiana, who was roaming about in search of fortune. He made his difficult way into the valley, examined it thoroughly and decided that it would, with some effort, make an excellent fruit farm or ranch. Owing to its high, protecting walls neither northern nor other chilling winds ever found their way in. Snow was unknown, although it might lie ten feet in depth on the land above and around it. Two beautiful lakes, clear as crystal, covering about an acre of space, forty or fifty feet deep and filled with trout, promised water and the means of irrigating the soil, also fish for food. The boulders covering the ground might be cleared up, the bushes exterminated, and a clear field of several hundred acres left for cultivation.

He went away, but soon returned, bought out the miner, obtained a clear title to the whole "hole" and then, with men, horses, tools and blasting powder, he set to work.

The first thing to be done was to make a road over the steep, rocky sides down which horses, burros and wagons might pass. This was a difficult piece of work but was at last satisfactorily accomplished. The heavier articles needed for use in the basin below—wagons, plows, scrapers, harrows, powder and dynamite—were all lowered by ropes over the perpendicular wall seven hundred feet in height; but all was at last completed, the trees planted, and the "Devil's Corral" with its name changed to the "Blue Lakes" to fit its smiling beauty, is now the region of five thousand prosperous fruit trees, besides grapes, strawberries and watermelons. Prunes, pears, apples, peaches and nectarines grow there in great luxuriance, and their owner is fast becoming a wealthy man from their yearly yield. Frosts never touch his land nor broiling sun burn up his young fruit. His lakes are always full, and always at the same temperature—sixty degrees. They are fed by subterranean streams, and their surplus water flows off through underground channels.

With his wife and two beautiful children he lives here a life of content and happiness, undisturbed by the turmoils of the outside world.

Mice Love Music.



IT is said that mice love music and have been known to get inside of pianos and scratch on the strings, apparently for the purpose of hearing the tones so produced. It is said that once while a piano was being played in a house, several mice came out upon the hearthrug and began to jump about as though delighted with the music; so absorbed were they that one of them allowed himself to be picked up and carried away in tongs by the housemaid.



THE dwarf tribes inhabiting the forests near the equator in Africa make a pipe of the midrib of the banana leaf, which is cellular. They get the bore required for the stem by pushing a long, hard river weed through the rib; then they plug the lower end with clay and roll up a piece of banana leaf into a ball, cut a hole in the stem and insert it for a bowl; the sap preventing combustion, as the tobacco burns. The English clay pipe is the principal pipe used in New Guinea, and is generally acceptable as part payment for a day's labor. During the civil war, American soldiers used a pipe, the bowl of which was made from a potato and the stem from a piece of twig from which the pith had been driven.

The Elusive Dragon Fly.



THE dragon fly possesses the unique faculty among winged creatures, birds or insects, of flying backwards and forwards and sideways without turning its body. There are very few insects that the swallow, with its marvelous speed and dexterity, cannot catch, but the dragon fly is one of them. The dragon fly without any apparent trouble, will keep a few feet ahead of a swallow for half an hour at a stretch, and no matter how swiftly the swallow flies, the dragon fly is never just there when it makes its swoop. This is because the swallow has to turn its body. While the dragon fly only reverses its wings.



TOM, is the name of a cat who has a record of covering a distance of 675,000 miles in the past thirteen years. He was only a kitten when he climbed up the sides of the steamer Alameda, of the Oceanic Line, and took refuge in a remote corner until she went to sea. He made his debut while chasing a rat, when he jumped onto the galley stove. His agony was relieved by the engineer, who carefully dressed his paws, after which Tom was his inseparable companion. When he had travelled 600,000 miles, he was presented with a silver collar by his American admirers in San Francisco, and his friends in Sydney have asked the privilege of presenting him with a gold collar when he finishes his million mile record.

An excellent breakfast for the average person consists of a bowl of well-cooked cereal with a little cream, a slice of whole-wheat bread, and, if he has been accustomed to it, a cup of coffee which is half heated milk with no sugar.

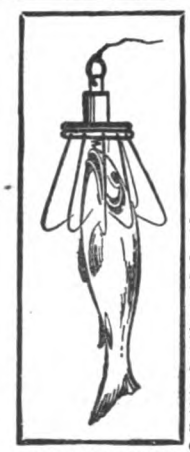


A NEW gem has been found in Mexico, which, on account of its resemblance to an eye has been named "Cyclops." It was found by an opal miner who sent it to Chicago to be examined; when the stones were cut they were found to be very beautiful. The rough stones resemble a rose, and vary in size from a pea to three-fourths of an inch in diameter. When the stone has been smoothly cut a little red spot shines through, this giving the stone its name. The clear substance surrounding this red center is chalcedony, and the general shape of the stone is hemispherical, with the red ball in the middle of the flat side.



THE feeblest infant, unduly arrived in this vale of tears, may be grown to the right proportions by means of the baby incubators, now in quite common use in the hospitals. The little ones struggle along under glass and the nurses claim that they are more healthy when they leave the incubator than the offspring reared in the way nature intended. The most irritable infant submits to the quieting influence under the gentle, soothing warmth that surrounds the immature little frame. Children of a larger growth whose immature *mental* and *moral* calibre would be greatly improved if they could be kept under glass for a period, should receive the attention of scientists!

Empress Augusta Victoria of Germany offers a golden cross to every servant girl in the country who can show a record of forty years of service in one family. Last year she bestowed one hundred and forty-four of these crosses, and only one of them went to the city of Bremen.



—THE—
EAGLE CLAW,

A WONDERFUL INVENTION. BEST TRAP IN THE WORLD for CATCHING FISH, ANIMALS, AND ALL MANNER OF GAME.



A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is **surely caught.** Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. **One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish.** Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. 1 is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. 2 is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

PREMIUM OFFER. We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or, send us 50 cents and we will send the No. 2, Eagle Claw-hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, $2.25; No. 2, $3.50.

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Will be established in all parts of the country. Hundreds of thousands of people have never heard a talking machine. Late improvements in the Gramophone Records now make it possible for any one to open up **entertainment resorts** right at home and make a large amount of **money without any capital.** The latest machines can be relied on to furnish not only the



very best of vocal and instrumental music, but they **talk** and **reproduce** all sorts of exquisite voices or sounds in a decidedly clear and distinct manner sounding **exactly** like the **original** from which the matter is reproduced. The Talking Machines we are introducing come in a nice box case about a foot long and nearly nine inches wide. They make a very attractive article for home use. The construction is very unique and strong; nothing to get out of order and they are the marvel of the age. For House, Home and Church entertainments we have machines that are just perfect in the required volumes of sound given out that make them marvelous amusement makers, and melody producers. We want to establish proper Parlor, Store and Hall and Street amusement centers in every part of the country and require at once **one thousand persons** in different parts of the United States to either devote part or all of their time to looking after the business or furnish space in their homes in which to display and show up these marvelous machines. Remember you do not have to invest **one cent.** Simply say you are prepared to co-operate with us and devote part or all of your time to displaying these wonderful phonograms to your friends and neighbors, provided it is proved beyond a doubt to be a money-making profitable employment for you. One thousand of these new machines will be ready to ship, all charges paid, during the next three months. Write at once if you are willing to have one sent to you. This new business will be adapted to all persons from sixteen to sixty years of age



CONDITIONS. Owing to the extra weight of metal in these indestructible Talking Machines obliging us to send the Phonograms by Express, we pay all shipping charges ourselves, and land the machine free into your home. You keep it as long as you like; make all the money with it you can, without any expense to you whatever. This offer is only made now and this chance to accept comes to you but once in a lifetime.

AS A MATTER OF PROTECTION. We simply ask you to secure twelve yearly subscribers to Family Herald at 25 cents each to help pay newspaper advertising, etc., etc. We get our profit from future sales of machines, records, etc., caused by the exhibition you give the Phonogram, the good words you say in its favor, etc., and if you make any direct sales we pay you big profits. Send for subscription blanks, additional sample copies of The Herald, etc., and we will reserve a machine for you on notice, so you can get up your club of twelve at once before machines are all shipped to other parties. Address,

FAMILY HERALD, Phono. Dept., Augusta, Maine.

Woman as a Wage-Earner.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



"WHERE there's a will there's a way" is an old proverb but a true one, and never has it been more amply proved true than by the earnest, ambitious woman of the present day. In this country, only a generation ago, woman was thought to be incapable of earning her own living except within certain narrow limits. All the professions were closed to her. Even as a school teacher her field was very narrow and restricted. Now, however, she has taken the matter into her own hands, and has proved, conclusively, that in many things, even in brain work, she is the equal, if not the superior, of man. A few instances, taken at random here and there, will serve to show not only her ambition as regards work, but her success.

One young woman of my acquaintance found herself suddenly left alone in the world with scarcely a penny which she could call her own. Instead of wasting her time in bemoaning her hard fate, or casting herself weakly upon friends to be supported, she bravely set her wits to work to find out what she could do for herself. She had no particular talent, was not a practical housekeeper or cook, and was only a very ordinary sewer; but she had learned, for amusement, the art of photography, and had become quite an expert as an amateur. She had her outfit, of course, and at once started out to make a practical use of her one accomplishment. She went into the suburbs of the city where she was living, and obtained orders from the wealthy residents there to take "views" of their homes and of the picturesque spots in the vicinity. With her aid, albums of home views became quite the fad among those for whom she worked. She made albums for herself of picturesque or noted places in and around the city, and found a ready sale for them at the stationery and art stores. When interest at home began to flag she wandered into the country, and took photographs of their homes for the farmers for miles around. She finally began to visit watering places, and mountain resorts comparatively little known, and there her views were eagerly bought, not only by the guests but by the proprietors of hotels and owners of private boarding houses who used them as advertisements of their places. She is still pursuing her chosen work, and is rapidly growing rich upon it.

Paris has a newspaper, made up and run exclusively by women. Not a man or a boy is employed upon it in any capacity. The pressmen, machinists, compositors, proofreaders, telegraphers, photographers, lithographers, clerks, advertising agents, foreman of the press-room, foreman of the composing room, reporters, artists, foreign correspondents, dramatic, musical and literary critics, business mana-



FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF LINCOLN.

ger and editor-in-chief, all are women. Even the office boy and "printer's devil" are young girls in neat caps and aprons.

The title of this newspaper is the *Fronde*, so named from a peculiar civil war waged in France in the seventeenth century.

This new woman's newspaper is not an organ for "women's rights," as its name might seem to indicate, but is a political and literary journal, which aims to "make war on all abuses."

Two girls, refined and cultivated, accustomed to good society, but needing the wherewithal to clothe themselves, resolved to furnish houses, that is, to assist in planning the hangings and furniture of the rooms, and also to select the same if desired, to receive it when sent home, and to arrange each room to the best advantage. They superintend the hanging of pictures and curtains, the laying of carpets and rugs, the arrangement of bric-a-brac, and not until the house is ready for occupation in every respect do their labors and responsibilities cease.

Rather different from this is the work of two other girls who, when confronted by the question of how to make a living, resolved to follow the example of the immortal Lincoln, and split logs and make rails, pit posts and caps for the Spring Hill Coal Company in Pennsylvania. They do all the work of felling the trees, sawing them into proper lengths, and finally, with axes, they split them into pit posts. The two girls are sisters, and always work together, sometimes assisted by a younger brother, and they can swing an eight-foot cross-cut saw through an oak tree as easily as most girls run a typewriter. When the tree is sawed through one of the girls sets an iron wedge into one end of the log, and with a large maul weighing about twenty pounds, she drives it in, splitting the log from end to end.

"The work is not hard when one is used to it," they say, "and we can earn more money in this way in one day than we could in a week by working in a kitchen."

Another woman who wishes to add to her income has begun to make a business of cleaning bicycles, going from house to house for her work, and carrying with her all things needed in the process.

Women have now become so generally known as skillful physicians that it would be a mere waste of time and space to rehearse their success in that line, but in this connection it is interesting to note that Miss Hu King Eng, the only female native of China who ever graduated from an American medical college, has lately been accorded very high honors in her own country. She was appointed sole delegate from China to the women's medical convention in London; and, as if that were not honor enough for one Chinese woman, Li Hung Chang, China's Grand Viceroy, has appointed her first physician to his private household. Never before has this high office been given to a woman, and when we reflect upon the low estimate formerly put upon women throughout China, we cannot refrain from congratulating Dr. Eng that she has been the means of ennobling her sex in her native land.

In dentistry and pharmacy, also, woman is rapidly gaining for herself an enviable reputation. For the past five years woman dentists in the United States have had an association which, although founded in Philadelphia, has members all over the country. It is called the National Woman's Dental Association. The first woman to graduate from a dental college was Fraulein Henriette Hirschfeld, who, refused admission to the Pennsylvania dental college by its dean on the ground that she was a woman, appealed to the faculty. Careful inquiry on their part revealed the fact that she had come to America for the sole purpose of taking a course in dentistry at this college, sure that here, in this land of freedom, she would be admitted without any question. She had, besides, been promised by the Minister of Public Instruction in Germany that if she were successful in obtaining her diploma as dentist in America she should be allowed to practice in her own country. Touched by the bravery and the distress of the little foreigner, as well as by her sublime faith in the chivalry of the American professional man, the dean withdrew his opposition, and she entered the college, completed her course, graduated, and is now, and long has been, in lucrative practice in Berlin, Germany. Very lately the same college has graduated a young Japanese girl, who has returned to her own country to practice among her sisterhood, and also to establish a school of dentistry in that far away land.

Another line of business heretofore supposed to be suited only to those of the sterner sex has recently been invaded by women, when Mrs. Brierly, of New York State, assumed the duties of motorman on a street car. She proved herself fully capable of doing what she had undertaken, but, unfortunately for her, her husband objected, decidedly, to her course, and she was obliged to resign her position. Another woman has donned bloomers and gaiters, and gone on the railroad as a brakeman. Let us hope that the fates will be kind to her, and that she will not end her career ignominiously by dying in a ditch of a broken neck.

A Michigan woman has made a new departure by getting herself appointed as game warden for Grand Traverse County. The duties of this position are such that few men desire the place, but Mrs. Neal is a plucky little woman, and has no fears of her success. She handles a gun like an expert, rows a boat, is a skillful woodsman, and knows every inch of the territory over which she has charge. She dresses, when on her trips, in a bloomer costume, carries a rifle, and woe to the unfortunate evil doer whom she catches evading the law! She is a relentless pursuer of such and they are sure of punishment if once she can prove them guilty. In addition to her other duties Mrs. Neal carries the mail three times a week to Traverse City.

In Chicago, a woman—Mary M. Bartelme, junior member of a law firm—has recently been appointed by Governor Tanner legal guardian to minors. It is an office which requires complete knowledge of probate law, a capacity for mastering details, and in addition calls for traits of character which are supposed to be possessed in fuller measure by women than by the sterner sex, as the office involves the care of children, choice of their homes, schools, etc. It is the first time a woman was ever appointed to fill such a place, however, and Governor Tanner is to be congratulated upon the wisdom of his selection.

Much might still be said upon this subject of woman's ambitious efforts and success in developing the best that is in her, but lack of space forbids, and we will only mention one more example.

A young woman, barely thirty years of age, and dependent from the first upon her own efforts for all she has and enjoys, has already, in the past twelve years, made six journeys to Europe, learned to speak six modern languages, and has, besides earning the means to take these journeys and carry on the study of these languages, supported herself entirely upon her earnings as a school teacher, and has paid every penny of her traveling expenses. Her knowledge of foreign languages and the deepening and broadening of mind and heart obtained by travel and observation have fitted her for a higher position than the public school, and she has been offered and accepted the place of instructor in French, German and Italian in a high school for young women. She still keeps up the practice, however, of saving as much as possible from her salary, and uses this surplus, every other year, in visiting some portion of the old world during her summer vacations.

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PATENT secured or money all returned. Search free. Collamer & Co. 123 E st., Wash. D.C.

$1,000 FOR A CERTAIN OLD COIN.

WHILE there are some people who have a vague idea that coins issued 100 or 1000 years ago are worth fabulous sums, yet very few know that coins issued only a few years ago are at a large premium. For instance, the silver dollars of 1895 and many of the earlier ones. The first Columbian half-dollar, issued 1892, sold for $1,000. All the half-dollars from 1879 to 1890 are at a premium, also Isabella quarters of 1893, the old issue of the quarters and half-dollars of 1853, twenty-cent pieces 1876 to 1878; five and three-cent pieces of 1877; last issue of the two-cent copper and three-cent silver pieces; first issue of the nickel cents, all gold dollars and three-dollar gold pieces; all Territorial and California coins from 1849 to 1880, and thousands of earlier American and Foreign coins, Canadian especially. There is also a premium on some coins with **MINT MARKS O, S, C, D or CC**; also on fractional currency, colonial, continental and Confederate bills and old **POSTAGE STAMPS.** THE GLOBE reports that a coin was found in Galveston worth $5,000. THE NEW YORK JOURNAL says that a cent was plowed up at Aurora, N. Y., worth $1,200, and that Mr. Castle paid **$4,400 FOR A STAMP** found at Louisville, Ky. THE WORLD says: "Many people have become wealthy by looking after old coins and stamps." THE HOME JOURNAL says: "Coin and stamp collecting is a profitable business, as there are but few in it. The Numismatic Bank buys from Agents all over the country, and pays them big sums." Coins that are very hard to find in one section are often easily found in others. A Boston baker sold 116 coppers for $6,915, 29 silver coins for $4,713, and 4 gold coins for $1,700, and others have done nearly as well. MR. F. W. AYER sold recently a lot of stamps, collected since 1892, to Stanley Gibbons for **$250,000.** THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS says: "The Numismatic Bank is not only the largest institution of its kind, but as reliable, safe and trustworthy to deal with as any National Bank. The enormous business done by them is the result of **SQUARE DEALING** and liberality." Send two stamps for our illustrated circular on rare coins and stamps, which may prove to be your stepping stone to wealth and independence. **NUMISMATIC BANK, (Dept. C, Boston, Mass.**

$8 per 100 made collecting neighbors' names. Book and instructions 10c. F. Bennet Co., Parkville, N.Y.

600 SECOND HAND BICYCLES $5 TO $15. Bargain list free. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago.

$25 A WEEK AND EXPENSES to sell cigars on time. Experience unnecessary. THE W. L. KLINE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

LADIES WANTED to learn stamping at home. We pay 10c. an hour until fit. Fresh offer is then made. MCGREGOR & Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.



A motherly young woman living in Rockville, Conn., has found life a pretty desperate problem. "I didn't think life worth living," she says, "until the last three years; but now, thank God, everything is different. I am 35 years old, the mother of six children, and I feel better and stronger to-day than I did ten years ago, all owing to Ripans Tabules. About three years ago I sent for a dollar bottle and have been using them both for myself and my family. They have cured me both of dyspepsia and headache, from which I was a sufferer for seven years. I tried everything under the sun, but nothing gave me relief until I got the Tabules, which gave me relief from the very first. I have recommended the Tabules to all my friends and neighbors. They are a blessing in any home."

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

A $1.00 ALVAH CAMERA FREE!

THIS NEW ALVAH CAMERA, COMPLETE WITH DEVELOPING OUTFIT

AND ALL MATERIALS FOR TAKING, MAKING AND DEVELOPING PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE SENT FREE AS A PRESENT TO ANY OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS OR READERS ON THE EASY CONDITIONS HEREINAFTER EXPLAINED.

THIS COMPLETE OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING. We get no money for it, but we give it to you free as a present in consideration of a very slight effort on your part. **Send us 24 months' subscription to COMFORT and enclose with your letter 50c., which will be payment in full for the subscription,** and our paper will be sent you for 24 months, and in addition to sending our paper for 24 months we will send you **by mail, all charges prepaid by us, this handsome new ALVAH CAMERA and complete outfit,** as illustrated and described below.



IF YOU ARE AN OLD SUBSCRIBER you can renew your subscription by this offer, simply state the fact, and your new subscription will commence from the date your present subscription expires. **IF YOU ARE AN OLD SUBSCRIBER** and do not wish to extend your subscription, **get the subscription of some friend or neighbor.**

UNDERSTAND YOU GET THIS COMPLETE CAMERA AND OUTFIT FOR NOTHING. All we ask is that you enclose fifty cents for 24 months' subscription to our paper.

THIS IS A REGULAR $1.00 ALVAH CAMERA, COMPLETE WITH DEVELOPING OUTFIT and all materials for making pictures. It is a camera that retails regularly at $1.00, and is in every way the equal of other cameras that retail at $1.00 without developing outfit and picture-making materials.

THE ALVAH CAMERA TAKES PHOTOGRAPHS, LANDSCAPES, AND ALL PICTURES 2X2 INCHES. It uses regular glass plates (not films). It comes with a complete outfit, so that you are not compelled to buy an outfit afterward.

The Camera and outfit are all securely packed in a box and consist of the following articles: **1 Alvah Camera, 1 Box Dry Plates, 1 Package Hypo, 1 Printing Rack, 1 Developing Tray, 1 Package Fixing Powder, 1 Package Ruby Paper, 1 Package Developer, 1 Package Silver Paper, 1 Set Directions, 1 Toning Tray,**

HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS OFFER.

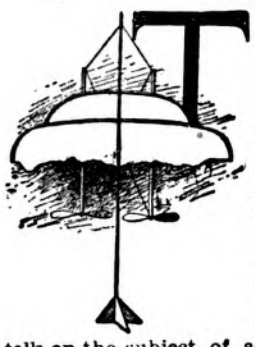
WE HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ONE OF THE LARGEST CONCERNS in America to supply us with these Cameras. Our contract with them is such that we have reduced the price to a mere trifle above the actual cost to manufacture; a price so low that every reader can now have a camera with complete picture-making outfit for nothing.

YOU GET THE ENTIRE OUTFIT FREE AS A PRESENT BY MAIL OR EXPRESS at our option, all charges paid by us. All we ask is that you secure for us one subscriber or renew your own subscription as explained above.

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MODERN AIR SHIPS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE thing can be done. I should like to live to do it myself, or to see it done by some other fellow. They are all at it. There is but one reason why I am not wrestling with it; ten years ago I mapped out twenty years of work for myself, and an inventor must stick to his schedule, or accomplish nothing."

These were the words of Thomas A. Edison, in a recent talk on the subject of aerial navigation. He confidently expects that the problem will be solved, theoretically, practically and commercially, during the remaining span of his own life. Theoretically and practically, aerostation no longer belongs to the domain of the impossible. The solution of the puzzle is in the hands of, and has been practically demonstrated by, several of the world's pre-eminent scientists. The commercial possibility of aerostation has only to be exemplified before the mid-air careering of air-ships becomes as common an every day spectacle as the scorching of bicyclists.

With three such men as Maxim, Edison and Langley as its confident prophets (and two of them its most indefatigable students), the paragrapher has found it sensible to abstain from classing the science of aerial navigation with the idiocy of perpetual motion. "Alchemist," as a term of ridicule with which to denominate the investigator of aerostation (it was used by no less an able and intolerant a man as old Dr. Johnson, in his "Rasselas") has fallen into disuse within the past few years. With the most capable inventors, the most ingenious mechanicians, and the most learned scientists of the world arrayed in the struggle to prove to the skeptical the absolute practicability of aerial navigation, the results of the experiments of the next few years can hardly fail to be startling. In truth, the results already achieved since the comparatively recent revival of interest in the subject among scientists are sufficiently amazing.

In tackling the subject of aerial navigation, modern investigators have thus defined the four obstacles confronting them:

First, ascension; second, propulsion; third, direction; and fourth, equipose.

None of these modern scientists, including the most successful among them, regard the matter of safety as one of the obstacles. That is to say, they unite in assuming that if the ascension is perfect, the question of safety is eradicated.

The inventors of air-ships of the gasometer type commonly omit ascension and equipoise as factors in the problem, for their contrivances only demand the consideration of two of the obstacles; propulsion and direction. But with the aeroplane devices, to the study of which the greatest among the students of aerial navigation have devoted themselves almost exclusively, the matter of equipoise has been the great and almost unconquerable difficulty, for the very simple reason that any object designed to float in one medium, and especially a medium so light and thin as air, must be poised to a degree almost incalculably nice. A little too much weight upon one side or the other, would overturn the machine, much in the way an unequally-balanced kite is overturned. It is this problem as to proper equipose which has chiefly stood in the way of a rapid development of the air-ship, and this problem, according to both Prof. Langley and Mr. Maxim, has finally been successfully solved.

Notwithstanding the almost exclusive attention which the more celebrated scientists are giving to the aeroplane devices, there is still an immense amount of work being accomplished by lesser investigators in developing the balloon or gasometer type of machine. In fact, there are more patents granted in the United States for inventions of this class than for the aeroplane class the world over—this being doubtless attributable to the neglect with which the comparatively few aeroplane students treat the gasometer (regarding it as a device incapable of further evolution) and the corresponding activity of the believers in the balloon, who belong for the most part to the constantly increasing class of professional aeronauts, and who take out the major number of patents on inventions of the gasometer class.

A United States patent was recently granted to a Brazilian for an aerostat of exceedingly ingenious and novel construction. The illustration shows the device in side view.

The gas reservoir of this device is of an elliptical and elongated form having a thin outer edge to serve as an aeroplane. A rudder of crescent shape is mounted upon a shaft projecting from the rear end of the reservoir. A car is suspended from the reservoir, and between the car and reservoir a series of sails is arranged. Propellor wheels are provided at the sides and rear end of the car, and these are operated by electric motor or storage battery.



PROF. CONTINHOS' AEROSTAT.

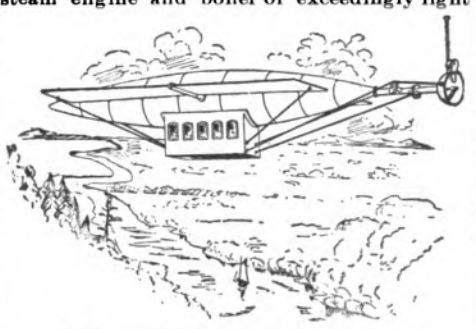
At a public trial of this air-ship made by the inventor at Pernambuco, Brazil, in June last, an average speed of forty-nine miles per hour for three hours was attained, the propellor being operated in the teeth of a strong wind for nearly half the time. The French military office has taken an interest in the device, and negotiations are pending for its use by the balloon corps of the French army. The inventor claims that his air-ship is capable of such perfection that he will eventually attain a speed of a hundred miles an hour with it.

The air-ship propelled by means of explosives is among the most novel of recent inventions in this class. A short time ago a New York inventor secured a patent for an air machine, the motive power of which is to be operated by the continous explosion of nitro-glycerine cartridges.

This extraordinary device has a bobbin-shaped gas-receiver. It carries a car supplied with a light electric motor. Extending out at the rear of the receiver is a shaft, which is provided with a concussion cup. A magazine designed for the carrying of the explosive pellets rises from this cup. The nitro-glycerine pellets are dropped at intervals, which may be easily regulated by a clock mechanism, and exploded by an electric spark. The recoil of the explosions acts against the concussion cup, and forces the air-ship forward. This machine, which in proportion to its size is exceedingly light, has been thoroughly tested, and the rapidity with which it was forced through the air by the concussive force of the explosives startled the scientists who witnessed the exhibition. The device is regarded, however, as a trifle too dangerous for practical purposes. A manufacturer of explosives who witnessed the trial remarked that it was difficult enough to handle nitro-glycerine on terra firma with any degree of safety, "let alone monkeying with it in mid-air." In time of war, however, when considerations of safety are not so keen, the machine would probably be of practicable service. The ship is provided with aeroplanes at the sides of the gas-receiver, and these are adjustable to any desired inclination, to head the ship either upward or downward.

The machines belonging to the aeroplane class are nothing more nor less than enormous kites, provided with means for propelling and steering. The planes are usually adjustable to the desired inclination. The aeroplanes of which the world has reason to expect the most are those of Maxim, the English inventor, and Langley, the American scientist. Professor Langley only recently returned to this country from Europe, and, while one of the most reticent of men, he has intimated that while in England he entered into an arrangement with Mr. Maxim whereby there is to be a combination of effort to effect the speedy perfection, and afterwards the popularization, of the aeroplane. The Maxim and Langley air-ships, exceedingly similar in their general design, are yet each capable of improvement by the addition of certain features of the other, and when the co-operation of these two masters of aerial navigation begins to be exhibited in essential changes in the apparatus of each, the absolute practicability and commercial possibility of the aeroplane will unquestionably be effectively proven.

Mr. Maxim's air-ship is provided with a steam engine and boiler of exceedingly light



PROPELLED BY EXPLOSIVE PELLETS.

weight, when compared with the enormous power developed. The craft is actuated by means of propellor wheels. The ascension is made from an inclined plane— the same mechanical law being followed which the lad instinctively uses in raising his kite. Professor Langley's device, the aerodrome, differs from that of Mr. Maxim in that it is designed to ascend in a spiral course, in the manner of a bird rising from the water or from a level plain to attain the desired altitude before taking flight. The advantages of this means of ascension were clearly shown in the recent experiments with the Langley aerodrome at Occoquan, Va., and this is one of the essential features which Mr. Maxim is to embody in the construction of the new aeroplane which he is now having made at his works in England.

The propelling power of Professor Langley's aerodrome is steam. The machine, which is shown in our initial, carries an exceedingly powerful engine and boiler, which, however, weighs but twenty pounds. The aerodrome with which experiments have been so successfully made is a small model, not designed to carry a person, but which has yet carried in its numerous flights a load of two hundred pounds. A speed of over fifty miles an hour has already been attained with the aerodrome, and, on the common mechanical principle that increased size with corresponding power increase aerial velocity (as in the case of the ordinary rifle bullet compared with the heavy projectile), Professor Langley confidently expects that the large aerodrome now in course of construction, which is to differ from the small model in embracing the best features of the Maxim device, will be forced through the air at a rate approximating a hundred miles an hour.

The oyster beds at Faversham are the most extensive and the oldest native grounds in the kingdom.

A REMARKABLE OFFER.

Our readers will doubtless have noticed the remarkable offer that is made in the advertisement of Messrs. Cornish & Company, Washington, New Jersey, that appears in this issue. It states that the Cornish American Pianos and Organs are shipped on one year's trial and upon reference to the advertisement and to the catalogue and circulars issued by this enterprising firm we find that their plan of business is to ship every Piano and Organ upon the understanding that if after 12 months' trial it is not entirely satisfactory to the purchaser, the instrument is to be returned to them and they will refund not only the purchase money and the forward freight charges, but will add interest at the rate of six per cent. This statement certainly proves the implicit faith that Messrs. Cornish & Company have in the quality of the instruments they manufacture. The Pianos and Organs made by them are warranted for a full period of 25 years, and this guarantee is backed up by plant, property and hard cash to the value of over a million dollars. The elegant catalogue issued by this firm can be had by any reader of this paper without cost by writing to Messrs. Cornish & Company, Washington, New Jersey. It is a handsome art souvenir elegantly illustrated in colors and is certainly worth its weight in gold to any intending purchaser of a Piano or Organ. We most cheerfully endorse all the statements that Messrs. Cornish & Company make in their advertisements and we believe that our readers will save a considerable amount of money by placing their orders with the only firm of actual manufacturers of high grade Pianos and Organs in this country, who sell exclusively direct from factory to family, without the intervention of agents, dealers and music stores, and thus save the general public the enormous profits that buying through the ordinary sources entails upon the purchaser.

WANTED RELIABLE MEN

We want at once reliable men in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; **$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES** not to exceed $2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars.

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RUPTURE SURE CURE at home; at a small cost. No operation, pain, danger or detention from work. No return of Rupture or further use for Trusses. A complete, radical cure to all (old or young) easy to use, thousands cured, book free (sealed). DR. W. S. RICE, Box C, ADAMS, N. Y.

MARRIAGE PAPER for Stamp; many very rich. D. D. MASON, 114-5th Av., N. Y. City.

CLAIRVOYANCE free. If sick, Send Now—your name, age, sex, lock of hair, and 2 stamps, to DR. D. HINKLY, X 10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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Stricture CURED while You Sleep. 8,000 cured in one year. Valuable Illustrated Treatise Free. St. James Associates, Dept. 57 Bond Hill, O.

MAGIC DIP NEEDLE for locating Gold and Silver Ore, Lost or Hidden Treasures. Circulars and testimonials free. P. & M. AGENCY, Palmyra, Pa.

CATALOGUE Watches and Telescopes FREE. EXCELSIOR IMPORTING CO., 111 Nassau St., New York.

SURPRISE REVOLVER



The greatest hit of the year. A perfect imitation of six shooter revolver. By pressing small rubber bulb discharges stream of pure water. You can have more fun with this cute gun than with a box of live monkeys and no harm in the joke. Every one laughs and you can have 500 good jokes a day. Selling like wild fire. Get one at once and have a pile of fun with your friends. Sent postpaid with a three months' trial subscription for only six cents; or 5 for 22 cents.

PREMIUM OFFER. Send us 27 cents for a trial yearly subscription and we will send you two Surprise Revolvers, charges all prepaid.

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

For Men, Women and Children. Address, The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co., 109 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free. RUBBER GOODS

GET MARRIED NEW PLAN, free. Address COR. DIRECTORY, 5 St., Marshall, Mich.

BED-WETTING CURED Sample Free. Dr. F. E. MAY, Bloomington, Ill.

YOUR BUST ENLARGED Six Inches. Failure Impossible. 1000 Testimonials. Send two cents for full particulars. AURUM MEDICINE CO., Dept. AN, 55 State St., Chicago



5000 RAZORS GIVEN AWAY!

5000 handsome imported Sheffield steel razors FREE, only one to a person. Sheffield Razors known world over as best made. Some have sold high as $10. Razors highly finished, handles artistically worked in gold. To be given absolutely free for selling or giving away 10 cakes of our shaving & complexion soap which beautifies skin, removes pimples, blotches & all facial eruptions, leaving skin soft as a baby's, delicately perfumed after a shave. Send 10 cts. silver or stamps for sample cake & we will send one at once with our razor offer securely packed, prepaid. Some firms spend thousands advertising in magazines, when we make an offer, we mean it, knowing you will appreciate the present & show our goods. Address Balm Soap Co., 10 Murray St., New York City.

Why we do this.

SANTA CLAUS OUTDONE.

A Grand Box of Christmas Presents for All

FREE! FREE! FREE!

We Present You With This Great Stock of Goods, Anyone Can Now Start in Trade and Make Money.



WE ARE CLOSING OUT THE BALANCE OF A LARGE STOCK OF BARGAINS.

There are thousands of good honest boys and girls who want to earn money but cannot get a start—you can now set up a little store at home or tell your neighbors and playmates at school about your goods and sell them rare novelties **cheap at big profits** to yourself. Many great millionaires like Jay Gould, sold small articles and thus got a start in life. You can now do the same.

Our Bonanza Bargain box contains over seventy different useful and pretty articles of household value and personal wear. You can see by the illustration and following list what a great variety there is and all up to date, in style and quick sellers.

1 Badge Pin, President McKinley; 1 Old Glory Pin; 1 Reversible Pocket Penholder; 1 Bright Finish Napkin Ring; Six Assorted, Ornamented School and Fancy Badge Stick Pins; 6 Silver Finish Allumonide Rings; 6 Fancy Twist Friendship Rings; 1 Small Gilt Frame Toy Mirror; 2 Gilt Frame Colored Pictures; 6 Brass Charm Ornaments; 1 Small China Doll; 1 Pair Fine Cuff Buttons; 1 Pearl Bead Necklace; Half a dozen Steel Pens, assorted; 1 Tortoise Shell Pocket Comb in Case; 1 Lead Pencil Sharpener; 1 Glass Bead Necklace; 1 Long Gilt Watch Chain; 1 Bunch French Hairpins; 1 Glove Buttoner; 1 Boy's Toy Watch and Chain; 1 Celluloid Bosom Pin; 1 Key Ring Ivory label; 1 Fancy Pin Metal Frame Picture; 1 Pocket Folding Mirror; 1 Shrill Whistle Animal call; 1 Chatelaine Watch; Brownie Pins; 1 Album Decalcomanie Transfer Pictures; 6 Assorted Fancy Colored Neck Charms; 1 Punch and Judy and imitation Bird and Animal call; 1 George Washington Hatchet Charm; 6 Brass Bells for Cat and Dog or fancy uses; 1 Fancy Colored Celluloid Mascot Bow Pin; 3 Fancy Jet Stick Pins; 1 Hobson Badge Pin etc.

These six dozen articles retail in large department stores anywhere. We present the whole lot to you outright that you can sell a few and keep the rest and still make a dollar clear by a few hours' work. We give you the whole lot free. Any parent wishing to have some Holiday presents handy had best send for this lot now and look them over before paying out many dollars for something not as good. For church fair grab bags, prize packages, county fair and school entertainments they offer boundless opportunities. With each lot we send special wholesale prices of separate articles so you can deal in them right along.

HOW WE DO IT.

These goods readily retail according to where you live. We want to get "COMFORT" into new homes and have it read by people who have not heard of this greatest of all family papers, and will therefore offer this unheard of chance to all men and women and boys and girls to get this **Great Bargain Box of Goods Free.** We want your co-operation and good will, and as we have but a few remaining, agree to send this complete array of novelties, all charges paid if you secure only two yearly subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. You can secure the two subscribers in less than thirty minutes. All you then have to do is to send us the 50c. and the box of goods is yours as quick as the mail brings your letter, as we ship them the same day order is received. If it is so you can't get out and secure subscribers send 50c. for your own subscription for two years.

OFFER NO. 2. Many boys and girls will want the lot of goods to sell, but can't get the 50c. to pay subscription condition. If you will drop us a postal giving full address we will mail you 12 copies of COMFORT which you agree to sell at 5c each (many do the same day received). Then send the 60c to us and goods will be sent you without the subscription condition free. We want to help and encourage all Boys and Girls who will try and help themselves. Positively no Bargain Boxes sent out only as per above conditions.

SPECIAL 5 DAY NECKLACE OFFER.

To anyone sending the two subscriptions and 50c. within five days after seeing this notice we will also send a beautiful **Rex Diamond Stick Pin** and this beautiful cut jet Necklace.



The **NECKLACE** is a perfect gem. It is made up of **nearly two hundred cut jet** and bright shining gilt or silver beads hung in rows of large and small beads with a nice gilt clasp. It is such a **Necklace** that either a child or a lady can wear and be in good form. It measures nearly fifteen inches around and has about [illegible] inches in bead work

It is impossible to convey any sort of an idea in an illustration, the grand and beautiful effect this **Necklace** gives. It will certainly delight any female either old or young. **Address,**

THE CHRISTMAS BOX COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Petroleum Industry.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE word petroleum means rock-oil, and is, in its present form adopted from the Latin into English. In German it is called Erdol, earth-oil, and Steinol, stone-oil. In French the word is Petrole.

Petroleum is one of the forms of bitumen. Other forms are asphalt, naphtha and natural gas.

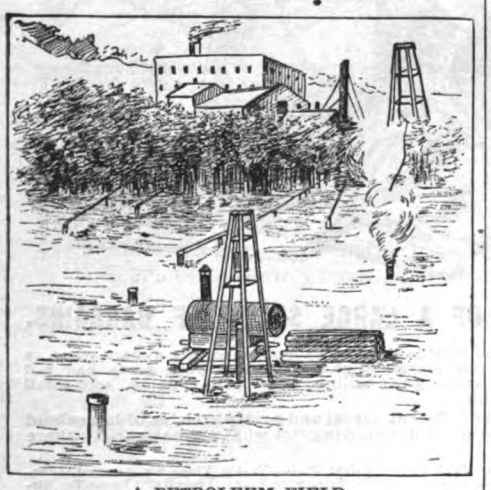
Bitumen has been known and applied to the uses of mankind since the dawn of history. Herodotus writes of "lakes of pitch" which, he says, "smelt like asphalt," and which the ancients were accustomed to transfer from the lakes to cisterns; from these cisterns jars were filled in which the bitumen was carried away for use. Strabo mentions having found it in the Valley of Judea and near the Euphrates river.

Bitumen was much used by the ancient Egyptians for embalming, and it was used as a cement for the bricks in building the cities of Nineveh and Babylon. Petroleum itself is mentioned as having been found on the banks of the Oxus in the time of Alexander.

The presence of petroleum in North America was observed by the earliest explorers, but very little was ever made of the discovery. Late in the last century springs of petroleum were noticed in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky as explorers and settlers began to penetrate the wilds of that part of the country. Various finds of oil were made from time to time in these regions from this date onward, and for a long time it was bottled and sold for medicinal purposes under the name of Seneca Oil; but no definite or popular efforts were made to utilize the article until the spring of 1857. At this time the Seneca Oil Company was organized, and E. L. Drake was sent out the following spring to drill for oil. He commenced operations by attempting to sink a shaft in an old timbered pit supposed at the time to be of prehistoric origin, but which has since been proved to be a product of more modern times. Water and quicksands thwarted him and at length, after attempting to drive down an iron pipe, he abandoned his attempts for the season. The next spring, however, he was more successful, and was surprised one day by finding his drill hole filled with what proved to be pure petroleum, and the wildest excitement immediately prevailed. He telegraphed to his employer, Mr. Bissell, who at once bought up all the stock which he could obtain of the Pennsylvania Oil Company and leased tracts of land in the vicinity at a great profit.

During 1860, and 1861 several hundred wells were drilled, but only about half of them were producers and a very small proportion were flowing wells. However, even with the failure or partial failure of so many of the wells in the production of crude petroleum the supply became so much greater than the demand in the short space of three years that it dropped from fifty cents per gallon to ten cents per barrel.

Among the more famous of the wells at this time were the Flowing Fountain well, struck in May, 1861; the Empire, which yielded 2,500 barrels of oil each day, and the Phillips, which yielded 3,000 barrels per day. The Noble & Delamater well, yielding three thousand barrels per day, made within two months after its start the sum of $354,000. The Caldwell well, which was thought to be interfering with the Noble & Delamater, was bought and plugged, and during the following six months the Noble & Delamater cleared more than $1,000,000. The whole region was now a scene of bustling activity. Everybody was rich or expecting to become so. Oil Creek Valley, from Titusville to Oil City, was a forest of derricks. Work went on night and day, and the creak of the windlass was never silent. Fortune hunters were rushing madly about; vice and infamy, greed and desperation, were on every hand, and the "oil regions" were anything and everything except the abode of peace, quietness and order. The very demon of unrest seemed to be abroad there and the "Lord of Misrule" reigned supreme.



A PETROLEUM FIELD.

But the "craze" for oil lasted only a few short years, and subsided almost as suddenly as it had arisen, and at the present day all the wild rush of busy life in that region is gone, and the country thereabouts has settled into a quiet, humdrum existence of every day business. The oil industry still goes on, and much petroleum is obtained and much money made from its sale, but the wild excitement which characterized the vicinity of the wells in the early days of the discovery of oil is long since a thing of the past; and law and order have regained control.



DOUCORNET, the armless painter of Belgium, was born without arms and painted with his feet,—being an expert copyist and also painting original pictures. He has a rival in an Englishman, Bertram Hiles, who through an accident lost his arms. Before this dreadful calamity he was very ambitious to become an artist, and his disappointment was so great on losing his hands, that he decided to train his mouth to hold the pencil. This he did, and soon the brush,—and two years after his accident he obtained a "first class excellent" for drawing, at the school he was attending. Eventually he won a National art scholarship at the National Art Training school, and is now an exhibitor at the Royal Society of British artists.

MRS. LETITIA TYLER SEMPLE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE action of the fifty-fourth Congress, which, in March last, passed a bill increasing the pension of Letitia Tyler Semple, daughter of President Tyler, from eight to fifty dollars per month, recalls to the public mind the old, white-haired lady who is now passing the evening of her days in the Louise Home in Washington, D. C., but who, fifty-six years ago, was known as the "First Lady of the Land." She was born May 11th, 1821, at the old Tyler homestead, Greenway, Virginia. As a little child she was present at the reception to Marquis de Lafayette, at Richmond, Virginia. Later, she remembers the funeral services over the remains of Thomas Jefferson, her father, then Governor of Virginia, delivering a eulogy upon the dead statesman.

At eighteen she became the wife of Paymaster James Semple, United States Navy, and thus, at an early age, ended her childhood and youth, and entered upon the serious duties of life. When she was but twenty-one years old her mother died, and, her husband being absent on a cruise, her father asked her to assume for the time the duties of mistress of the White House. Beautiful in person, and cultivated and refined in mind and character, she filled the part to perfection, and has many a tale to tell, to-day, of the great men of the world whom she then met and knew as friends.

Daniel Webster was then in the height of his glory and a member of her father's Cabinet, being Secretary of State. Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, was Secretary of the Treasury, John Bell of Tennessee was Secretary of War, George E. Badger of North Carolina, Secretary of the Navy, and Francis Grainger, Postmaster General. In the official life of Washington at that time, too, were John C. Crittenden, Henry Clay, Rufus Choate, John B. Calhoun, Buchanan, Caleb Cushing, John Quincy Adams, Henry A. Wise, Col. Benton of Missouri, and a host of others, many of whom were personal friends of Mrs. Semple. Here, too, she met and knew Dickens, Ole Bull, John Howard Payne, Washington Irving, Lord Ashburton, and many another famous man of that day.

It was during her residence in the White House that her father gave a fancy dress party there to his eldest granddaughter, who was dressed for the occasion as a fairy with gossamer wings, and a diamond star on her forehead. Among other guests was the little daughter of Gen. Almonte, the Mexican Minister, dressed as an Aztec princess, the children of Henry Wise, and little Master Schermerhorn of New York.

Mrs. Semple remembers, too, the shocking disaster to the Princeton, upon which, while making a trial trip down the river with a most distinguished party of guests on board, including her father, a cannon burst while they were attempting to fire a salute, and instantly killed some of the party and some of the sailors. Among the killed was a Mr. Gardner, a wealthy gentleman from New York; and his daughter Julia, thus suddenly deprived of her father's care, soon became the wife of President Tyler, and Mrs. Semple resigned to her the duties and pleasures of the White House, and rejoined her husband who had been ordered to shore duty at Pittsburg, Pa. The years of 1856 and 1857 she spent abroad, as Major Semple had then been ordered to the Mediterranean Squadron.

At the ever memorable time when the Civil War began, with the fall of Fort Sumter, Mrs. Semple was in Brooklyn, N. Y., and was entertaining a party of distinguished guests at dinner on the day that the clouds of war thus gathered so thickly over our land. Virginia woman as she was and is, her sympathies were all with her native state, and time, strength, money, and even jewelry went to relieve the suffering of the Virginia sick and wounded soldiers. But the fortunes of war brought many others, friends and foes, under her care, and she faithfully tried to do her duty to all.

Returning to her home in Williamsburg in 1865, she found it utterly razed to the ground. Not a brick nor a stone remained of the magnificent pile of buildings once occupied by Lord Norbourne Botetourt; even the wells being filled up, and all the materials of the house having been carted away. Left in this way—homeless, widowed, and with but small means at her disposal, she opened a school for young women in Baltimore where her strong spirit of generosity led her to educate many penniless girls free of charge.

But at last, her eyes having given out, she became an inmate of the Louise Home, where she still lives; her sight constantly becoming dimmer and more dim she patiently and cheerfully waits for the end of life in this world. Surrounded by souvenirs of her past life, her room brightened by flowers and sunshine, cheered by the visits of friends, among whom are many little children, and loving her native country still with all the strong affection as when, in the days of her youth she begged during a severe illness at sea "Only have my body wrapped in the dear old American flag if I am buried at sea." She is endeared to the people of Washington and of the whole country as a true American woman and one of the very few still remaining to us of those who figured in the earlier life of our country.

SENT FREE TO MEN

A Discovery for Lost Manhood Sent Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for It.

G. B. Wright Was Restored to Health and Makes a Generous Offer.

George B. Wright, a merchant and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years, offers to send the medical prescription that effected the cure to every reader of COMFORT who



is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge. As certain as a wound leaves a scar and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no telltale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form, quack doctors, who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate these horrors of lost manhood except he has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was affected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical powers go from him as the result of insidious disease until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his ten years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will not only brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself, but will restore the parts to their original size and vigor.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him but little to do so and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, *box* 1244, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

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The ordinary store keeper can feel proud when he makes twenty per cent. on sales; but when you handle the Magical Sponge, which you will notice advertised in another column of this paper, you cannot make less than one hundred per cent. and can easily clear **three hundred per cent. profit.** It is the neatest and greatest seller ever seen and sells itself. Just look at a few orders within a few days and see how it goes. These are not selected orders, but a few picked out of the heap, all haphazard, just to give you an idea and encourage you in taking hold and winning your fortune. Here was Joshua Crosby, East Weymouth, Mass., ordered a gross, February 23rd, and on the 12th of March ordered another. That's nearly $52.00 clear (simply paid Exp. charges out of it), just for a little work done at odd times in a few days. Mrs. J. Cartwel, Milford, Ill., on April 2nd sent for 6 dozen and on the 7th sent for a whole gross. There's thirty-nine dollars cleared up in a few days. Almon L. Reed, Benton Station, Maine, sold a dozen. Annie T. Silvey, Stevensville, Mont., ordered five dozen in less than a month. Mrs. John Abbott, Georgiaville, R. I., had 3 dozen sent her March 19th, and on April 3rd had a whole gross. A. E. Bryson, Oakdale, Pa., a dozen one day and right after 3 dozen, and so on through a whole pile of correspondence and orders, all telling how easy it is to sell the Magical Sponge, and how anxious people are to get it when they see what it will do. Many agents after showing the work of the sponge, easily sell from 3 to one dozen sponges in an office, or a building, while it is no trouble to sell them on the street, in shops, factories and houses as fast as you can handle them. Remember that every sale means large profit and never less than **one hundred per cent.** clear, which just doubles your money, while you can with a little energy and push, make six dollars on every dollar invested. You will notice we give you a sample to start you if you send for a subscription to "COMFORT" to-day.

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TALKS WITH GIRLS

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

A Merry Christmas to you all, though it may be just a little early to be making Christmas wishes. It is the last month of the year though and when we meet again in this column the old year will have gone into that mysterious past which nothing ever comes out of, and into which all things earthly go. However, this is Christmas month when all the world is glad and it is not good to be talking anything but laughter and good cheer; so here's to you for a Merry, Merry Christmas and many more to follow.

The very first questioner in this last month of the year is from the pretty hill town of Lynchburg, Va., and Cousin Irvine wants to know a whole lot. What will cure bashfulness? It can not be cured, but it can be improved by getting your mind off of yourself, and you can do that by constant association with other people. (No. 2) No, I cannot tell what a good book is so definitely that you may judge all books by the definition. The Bible is a good book, but it cannot be compared with any other. There are many kinds of books, and each kind has its own good ones. (3) A good student is one who best pleases the Faculty, I should venture to guess. (4) I do not know the last line of "The Forsaken," unless it is: "To wake to what?"

Muriel, Chicago, Ills.—Publishers say that there is no demand for short stories as compared with books. In copyrighting a book, you may have it copyrighted in manuscript yourself or sell the Mss. to the publisher giving him the privilege, or you may copyright it yourself when published. P. S. I am glad to hear you don't think about "beaux." There are so many better things to think about, dear.

Garnet, Mahanoy City, Pa.—asks me for a little prayer for grace at meals, but Garnet, dear, you don't want me to give it to you. Let your own thankfulness speak.

Maud and Minnie, Crow Wing, Minn.—Girls of fifteen may go to school with boys of seventeen when their parents are willing, and that is enough going. Some parents need guardians themselves. The other questions about boys and kissing are too silly to be answered.

Artistic, Holdingford, Minn.—As between becoming a stenographer and a grocery clerk, I should say that the latter had better opportunities and less competition. A good common school education ought to be plenty for either position. (2) Don't make a friend of a young man who has a bad reputation. The fact that he makes himself appear differently to you is not to his credit because he is deceiving you. (3) A nice wedding present for your new brother-in-law would be a silver match safe, a nice umbrella, a silver key-chain or something of that kind.

Ignorance, Springfield, Mo.—When a nice girl begins to lose her hold on the man whom she has believed she held firmly, it is best to move along in the even tenor of her way and let him go if he wants to. Be just the same to him as always and do nothing more.

Blue Eyes, Tallahassee, Fla.—I am sorry the beaus you have are so numerous that you don't have time to breathe, for if they were not, you might have time to learn the ordinary rules of spelling and grammar.

Efride, Kilgore, O.—A girl of fourteen should not have beaus three times a week or one time. She should be studying her lessons.

Miss A. M., Ludington, Mich. Write to the Secretary of the Detroit Club, Detroit, Mich., for the information you seek.

Twenty-Seven, San Francisco, Cal.—There are worse things than "old maidism," and one of them is unhappy wifeism. Still I think you don't run a great risk in marrying the man you mention, if you do not care for any other.

Three Sisters, Hartford, Kan. (1) It would not be proper for the young man to pay the hotel bill for the lady. (2) I suppose two young people might sit in a buggy for a short time and talk. (3) It would be correct for a girl to visit the mother of the young man she is to marry and she might also kiss him before his mother.

Brown Eyes, Grove City, Pa.—Long engagements are not to be commended. Wait till you are ready to marry. (2) A girl may write to a young man to whom she is not engaged. (3) The man's size should not be any bar to his favor in your eyes, if he is a good fellow. (4) If you get your parents' consent to your marriage, that is enough, unless the grandmother has money to give you.

Sweet Pea, Red Wing, Minn.—I do not know why it is, but most children seem to get along better if slippered occasionally.

Vera K., Hyndesville, N. Y.—If you are bashful and the young man is quite as much so, it seems to me that if you both told each other about it and agree not to be, the whole trouble would be remedied at once. Try it and see.

Gypsy, Stratton, Me.—It is quite proper to go wheeling with a man you know. (2) Nearly any colors may be worn with blue eyes and brown hair. Indeed, nowadays, nearly any colors may be worn by blonde or brunette, if not too pronounced.

Student, Medford, Wis.—I know of no college nearer than the one mentioned.

Annette, South Pittsburg, Tenn. A First National bank is no better than a Second or Third one. Sometimes not so good. National Banks take the numeral name simply to designate the order of their organization.

Lillian, Silverwood, Mich.—It is a safe rule to refuse the attentions of any man who counsels you to disobey your parents. The man is radically wrong.

Blue and Brown, Palmyra, N. J.—When a girl asks me which of two men she should accept, I tell her "neither," because a girl who doesn't know how to choose for herself in such a matter has no business marrying. (2) A girl may accept a box of candy from a man.

Ignorance, Sterling, Col.—(1) The man should never take the lady's arm, and she should simply tell him so, if he does. (2) Ladies who shake hands are not old fashioned. (3) There is no need of a man changing from one side of the sidewalk to another when walking with a lady. (4) Think about something else than yourself and you won't blush. (5) Don't try to divert your thoughts from your sweetheart while waiting for him. (6) There is no set rule for getting rid of a person you don't like to have round, and there ought to be, goodness knows.

Laura N., East Weymouth, Mass.—Better consult your family physician about removing the blotches. There's danger in it.

Hope and Faith, Austin, Texas.—Give up your notions of going on the stage. You had better learn to be good cooks.

Pansy M., Monticello, Wis.—Wouldn't it be a good idea to wait till the man proposes before you think of marrying him?

Louise, Applegarth, Md.—A man who makes love to one girl and writes to half a dozen others is a flirt to be avoided. (2) It is permissible for a man and a girl to exchange pictures.

A Reader, Atlanta, Ga.—To obtain your friend's discharge from the army you must get the help of your Congressman and U. S. Senator. See your Congressman.

Rosebud, Peoria, Ills.—Blue and black eyed people may wed. I never heard they shouldn't. (2) Give up the young man you are now interested in and trust to the Lord for another one.

Edith, Red Bluff, Mon.—A lead pencil is not good form for letter writing.

Daisy D., Jefferson City, Mo.—It is quite right for your fiance to call on you three or four times a week and perhaps to kiss you, seeing you are of age; but be chary of your kisses. I do not see why you do not marry as you seem to be so well satisfied with each other. I think you will be very happy though married.

Sweetheart, Mansfield, Ohio.—It is not quite possible to tell you why I do not think it is nice for a girl to kiss her escort good-by when she is not engaged to him. There are hundreds of reasons why she should not if she wants to be what every man wants the woman to be he wants to marry. Ask your Sunday school teacher why, man or woman.

Geneva, Attica, Ohio.—Since you are so undecided and are not yet twenty you had better not marry the young man for a year or two. If he really loves you he will wait, and if he doesn't you don't want him.

Three Girls, Marshalltown, Iowa.—It is never right to become engaged to a man unless you mean to marry him. It is worse than lying and stealing. (2) You can not be taught how to write a letter from the heart. If it is in your heart it will come out all right. (3) You did right to slap the young man in the face. He should offer you the apology, of course. You don't owe him one.

That answers the last questions, dears, and there were many this month. Now good-by until another month and until I may say to you all A Happy New Year. To the old year 1898, good-by forever.

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56 PIECES. Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 56 piece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. F, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.

ILLS AND AILS THAT OXIEN HAS CURED.

OXIEN CURES RHEUMATISM

AND IS ONE OF THE GREATEST PREVENTIVES OF PNEUMONIA KNOWN. IT CURES COLDS AND THROAT TROUBLES, AND GIVES QUICK RELIEF TO SUFFERERS FROM LA GRIPPE.

Being such a potent remedy for Diseases of the Throat and Lungs every careful housewife will be glad to equip herself with it. It has cured thousands of children of the Croup, and we have to-day in our strong room barrels of testimonials from men and women who have been cured of Catarrh and Throat ailments by the use of the OXIEN Remedies.

Runs a Crosscut Saw. A. GRANGER, LUCE, MICH. The doctors said I had spinal complaint. My left side and limbs were nearly paralyzed. After suffering nearly four years, I used only one lot of your wonderful Oxien remedies. Now I am running a crosscut saw every day.

Weak After La Grippe. MRS. KATE DAVIS, NOBLESVILLE, IND. Last winter I had a severe attack of la grippe. My recovery was slow, and I was left very weak. My nervous system seemed completely broken up. Oxien restored my health and strength.

A Perfect Wreck. MRS. MARY JAMESON, FOLSOM, KY. I had enlarged glands of the throat, nervous prostration, also female weakness of the worst kind. I was a perfect wreck. Oxien cured me.

Feels Like Different Woman. MRS. P. V. SANSOME, DALTON, GA. I feel like a different woman. Oxien is a great remedy. I believe by its continued use that any female disease that can be cured will be cured.

Saved His Life at the Age of 85. D. G. WILKINS, MARBLEHEAD, MASS. One day I was feeling very poorly. Two Oxien tablets helped me to reach home. They saved my life. I could not exist without them.

A Walking Advertisement. MRS. JOHN OLDENBURGH, MILLVILLE, N. B. I was sick for eleven years after having lung fever, which left me with a violent cough every fall and spring. Every one thought I had consumption. Now I am a walking advertisement of a cure by Oxien.

Stronger Than Ever Before. MRS. EMMA HECKERT, DANVILLE, PENN. I suffered with neuralgic nervousness and heart trouble. I have taken three boxes of Oxien, and I am stronger than I have ever been in my life before and am in good health.

No Doctor's Bills. MRS. B. PAYNE, SMITH GROVE, KY. We have saved, probably, hundreds of dollars in doctor's bills, besides a great deal of suffering, by having your remedies always at hand. They will check and cure pneumonia if taken in time.

Sleeps Like a Baby. MRS. WILLIAM FRAISER, BRIDGEVILLE, N. S. I did not get a good night's sleep for three years. I took Oxien tablets, and then I could sleep like a baby. I recommend them to others.

Couldn't Eat Any Food. S. E. MCCOY, CLARK CITY, MO. I was not able to leave my bed. I could not even drink water or eat any food. I lived on malted milk. My nerves were in such a weak condition that no one was allowed in my room. My limbs were useless, as were my arms. I was prevailed upon to try Oxien tablets and plasters. Now I believe I am completely and permanently cured.

Can Cook and Wash at 78. But Before She Took Oxien She Could not Walk Without Aid—Other Cures. MRS. CATHERINE M. SPENCER, of MURRAY, KY., writes under date of May 21, 1898: "Two years ago I had rheumatism so bad that I couldn't walk without help. I was cured by Oxien Electric Plasters and the Oxien tablets, so that now although 78 years old I can do my own cooking and washing."

An Old Soldier Made Well. "I am an old crippled soldier of the rebellion, and I was troubled with salt rheum for over 40 years," writes Peter Jasperson of Ashland, Neb., Jan. 13, 1897. "I laughed when somebody suggested Oxien. I laugh differently now for I tried Oxien and it has made me well."

Walked in 6 Days. MRS. LYDIA MONTGOMERY, CAMERON, W. VA., April 8, 1898: "My little girl was so afflicted with inflammatory rheumatism that for five weeks she couldn't walk a step. The fifth week we gave her Oxien only. In six days she could walk and to-day is in perfect health. I am willing to take oath to this statement."

More Good Than Doctors. MR. JOSEPH GOETTEHNAN, DECORAH, IOWA, March 27, 1898: "For years I was troubled with rheumatic neuralgia. Your Oxien tablets and Oxien plasters did me more good than could all the doctors in the state of Iowa."

A New Man. MR. FARQUHAR MURCHISON, OSCEOLA, ILL., Jan. 20, 1898: "When I first heard about Oxien I was a cripple from rheumatism. The Oxien tablets, plasters and pills made a new man of me so I am now at work and happy."

Rheumatism 10 Years. MR. GEORGE L. CATLIN, MENON, IND., Jan. 30, 1898: "I had rheumatism in one knee and one elbow for ten years, which the Oxien plasters entirely cured in three weeks."

Oxien the Remedy That Cures. MRS. E. E. POWERS, CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 3, 1898: "My little boy suffered such tortures from rheumatism that he could hardly stand on his feet. He would cry out with pain and at times would remain in a stupor for hours. Since he began using Oxien a year ago he has not had a single attack of rheumatism."

L. A. PERRY, ROXBURY, MASS., Jan. 22, 1897: "Oxien cured me of rheumatism which made life a burden."

Bedridden For 15 Years. Think of being bedridden for 15 years! This was the condition of Mrs. John H. Hunt of Fairview, Ohio, whose husband under date of January 27, 1896 writes: "About the first night my wife used the Oxien Electric Plaster the pains in her back disappeared. After taking one large box of Oxien tablets she was able to get up, and at the present writing she is free from pain."

Remedy for Pneumonia. After $1000 Spent in Doctor's Bills a Pennsylvania Woman Finds Relief in Oxien. The debility that follows pneumonia has been the bane of many men and women. Mrs. R. S. Pershing of Grip, Penn., had the best of doctors for it and her husband spent over $1000 trying in vain to get her cured. On Feb. 15, 1897, she wrote as follows: "I got a dollar box of Oxien and it completely cured me."

"Your Oxien remedies cured my little boy, 3 years old of pneumonia," writes Mrs. W. Mead of Beckwith Ridge, N. B., last spring.

FREE TRIAL OFFER TO YOU.

To those who will agree to test the powers of our Wonderful Discoveries, either personally or in their own homes, or in the home of some friend, and who will cut out and mail to us the following coupon, together with 25 cents in cash, we will send all charges paid, a sample Giant $1.00 size box of Oxien, with a 25 cent Oxien Electric Plaster enclosed and samples of our Wonderful New Oxien Tablet Pills. As this offer is made exclusively to those who will make a PERSONAL TEST *as here stipulated, the party taking advantage hereof must sign his or her name and address (in pencil) on the following coupon and return same to us as above.*

BEST YET. *If you order at once we will enclose a 25c. box* **Free** *of our latest and best remedy* **Oxien Nazone Salve** *making a complete outfit, total household value of which is over a dollar and costs you but 25c. mailing expenses, etc.*

Personal Dollar and a Quarter ($1.25) Coupon.

Name _____

Address _____

All communications in reply to this special offer must be addressed

THE GIANT OXIE CO., 21 TO 25 WILLOW ST., AUGUSTA, MAINE.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE year 1899 gives us five eclipses; the first Lunation or new moon of the year being a partial eclipse of the sun. The eclipse occurs at about forty-one minutes past five o'clock in the evening, on the 11th day of January. It occurs just after sunset to us on the eastern coast and is consequently invisible at Washington, the seat of government of our country. It is visible in Alaska and the northwestern part of British Columbia, also in Japan and the northeastern part of Russia, and to those regions where visible we are taught we must look for such effects as flow from the obscuration.

At the moment of the ecliptic conjunction, Washington time, Mars will be just rising in the east, and Neptune will be in the lower heaven or the 4th house; while Herschel, Saturn, Venus and Mercury will be in the 5th house, and the conjoined luminaries will be in the 6th.

Mars retrograde and rising points to some unusual excitement or angry discussions at public meetings, if not violence of a very lawless character; fires are likely to be unusually prevalent and all are cautioned in this particular to have care; the lunation falling in the 6th points to some unusual sickness, probably of an eruptive character, among the people and particularly among school children; hotels and theaters do not have as favorable season in January as usual and some extraordinary scandal or vicious development at a prominent hotel creates public excitement or unusual press comment. Scandal among theatrical artists or some accident at a theater is likely in this lunation.

Mars rising has a tendency to cause a warlike and contentious sentiment among our people as a nation and will keep alive the patriotic spirit that characterized us in the middle of 1898. Some of this effect will be seen in the last half of January, when also the financial affairs will be in some disorder.

The great benefic Jupiter will be in 4th house and gives us profit from our agricultural productions and healthful conditions on earth that promote advantages to the farming community.

The eclipse being visible in Japan, Russia and China, gives some indications of warlike disorder there and probably some serious earthquake or great disaster in that region of the earth's surface.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1899.

JANUARY, 1—Sunday. Not especially favorable as a Sabbath day; pulpit efforts will not be notable for soundness of either logic or judgment. Social matters are adversely affected and the fair sex are unpleasantly disposed.

2—Monday. Use the morning hours for asking favor from persons in authority and push all honorable undertakings vigorously during the first two-thirds of the day; the late afternoon hours will be less agreeable, being likely to bring disappointment and otherwise baffle thy progress; do not employ the afternoon for any kind of transactions pertaining to houses or lands or agricultural productions, nor make any new beginnings in any matters of a literary character; postpone correspondence.

3—Tuesday. Sign no contracts during the early forenoon, when also commercial matters are detrimented or embarrassed. The latter part of the day, on the other hand, should be employed to its fullest extent, preferences being given for artistic work, decoration, painting, dress-making, moulding, architectural designing, chemical processes, compounding ingredients for patent articles, and for electrical work of all kinds; seek audience with the fair sex and press the suit towards matrimony.

4—Wednesday. Choose the forenoon of this day for the purchase and sale of fancy goods, silks, wearing apparel and all articles of adornment and make thy selections of patterns, styles, colors etc., in dress; the day is in the main a good one for all the honorable undertakings in life; the evening forbids thee making any effort to obtain advantages from thine employer.

5—Thursday. Lose no moments of this day but give all thine energies to business; deal in houses and lands, sign deeds, make contracts, do important correspondence, improve the intellect, engage help, travel and deal with lawyers and all persons engaged in the literary pursuits or employed with the pen.

6—Friday. Disputes are likely to mar the events of the forenoon unless the tongue be held well under control; actively pursue thy business as the day advances, however, and thou mayst have more than ordinary assurance of the success of thy reasonable undertakings begun in the afternoon hours, when also money solicitations and transactions are likely to be successful; purchase goods for trade and adjust accounts with persons of wealth.

7—Saturday. Make personal applications for favor or promotion from public men and persons in superior positions or having any kind of authority over thee; engage in chemical and scientific studies and buy electrical and mechanical apparatus, drugs, and sharp instruments.

8—Sunday. A day of intellectual acuteness, executive force, and celerity of movement; though there will be tendencies to sarcasm and bitterness of speech; strange whims and notions become pronounced and the temper will need healthful check; the evening cautions against impatience and suddenly conceived fancies, inducing unpleasantness to the gentle sex and promoting quarrels and ruptures of the tender relations between the sexes.

9—Monday. A singularly evil day; enter not upon new business, for no permanent pecuniary advantage will accrue from such now begun; beware of dealings in real estate and be cautious to scrutinize the signatures to commercial paper and against a too ready belief in representations.

10—Tuesday. Pursue vigorously all thine avocations on this day, for thine exertions for pecuniary advantage in all honorable undertakings will meet with more than ordinary success; buy goods for trade and deal with judges, ecclesiastics and the wealthy; seek money accommodations and speculate in stocks if thy nativity also favors at this time; the day increases in benevolence each hour until the late evening.

11—Wednesday. Partial Eclipse of the Sun. Don't take this day for the beginning of any important undertaking, but rather urge the routine duties and economize thy strength and energies for better conditions under which to "born thy ventures;" the evening and night hours induce quarrels and strife and criminal impulses will be quickened; fires and explosions are to be guarded against; beware of all contention and litigation on this and the following day.

12—Thursday. A very evil day for travel, conducive also to bad fires, strife and contention; let the temper be guarded carefully; have no surgical operations performed; do not get caught in speculative disasters, but be very watchful of the purse and defer making purchases of merchandise for trade. The time is peculiarly unfortunate for persons born about the 10th of March, 28th of May, 10th of June, 14th of July, 10th of September and December, and the 28th of November, of past years; as such persons are likely to be baffled and defeated in most of their undertakings or are not in the best conditions of health. Let all such persons have the best of care for avoidance of lung and bronchial troubles, protecting the body more than usual during this winter season by woolens and flannels; avoid all chances of business disasters from making changes in their affairs in these passing weeks. Ladies, so born, should be more than usually watchful for the health and welfare of father, husband, brother, or other male relative dear to them, or to whom they look for worldly blessings. To all such persons REGULUS suggests that these are only temporary conditions of mischief which invite the special caution and that those born as indicated should be patient and watchful for a season the better to avert a great measure of the evil and to have confidence that the threatening clouds must roll on erelong and a brighter condition of things prevail.

13—Friday. Be stirring early and deal with elderly persons, hire houses and lands, and deal with persons in the dirty and laborious occupations; the afternoon invites special activity in the literary pursuits; deal with printers, publishers, booksellers, contractors, and persons in business connected with agriculture.

14—Saturday. The middle hours of this day are disappointing and dealings with railroad officers or persons in government positions do not result favorably. The very early and late hours are best of the day.

15—Sunday. An unpromising day for religious advancement or for success in the pulpit. The brain and nervous energies have suffered considerable detriment during the last ten days and nervous diseases have been inclined to melancholy and despondency, and suicides have become frequent.

16—Monday. Push affairs vigorously during this day, especially such as are connected with the mechanical pursuits or the manufacturing trades; deal in cattle, machinery, leather, cutlery, chemicals or electrical goods and particularly patented articles, but let all classes have care in the use of the pen in the forenoon when the signing of deeds and important contracts and correspondence are best postponed.

17—Tuesday. This day is propitious for music and art, and for pursuit of the elegant occupations; dealers in fancy goods, embroideries, milliners and jewelers should urge their business on this day. The time is favorable for the fair sex and for the pleasures and gratifications of life.

18—Wednesday. Bridle the tongue during this day and avoid contentions of all kinds; have no surgical operations performed that can be avoided, nor deal with chemists, butchers or bakers; look out for fires and explosions; let all have care in the handling or care of fire, hot liquids and chemicals and avoid accidents from such sources as well as from steam and electricity. These suggestions are particularly appropriate for persons born on or about the 18th of January or April, or the 21st of July or October, of past years, for the majority of such persons are now likely to be physically and mentally feverish and excitable; oversensitive in feeling; in the midst of controversy or contention; peculiarly rash in thought, deed, or act, and should especially avoid travel or otherwise placing themselves in the way of harm or loss from accident, or of danger from eruption and inflammatory troubles. Many of the persons born as indicated are threatened with severe money losses either from fire or through unwise speculations.

19—Thursday. Be not rash in thy business ventures nor invest thy capital in stock on this day; the conditions induce money losses and unwise and exhaustive payments; keep a strict eye upon the purse and all inclinations to expend thy means.

20—Friday. This day is full of energy and enterprise and invites activity in all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travellers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

21—Saturday. Have no important dealing on this day with very aged persons or those in public office, and beware of wasting thine energies in the pursuit of foolish projects or delusive schemes for improving pecuniary circumstances; patents and novelties offering on this day will prove to be poor investments.

22—Sunday. Evil conditions interfere with the general benevolence of this day; expose not thyself to disappointment.

23—Monday. An indifferent day, when conditions are not particularly conducive to success in any venture.

24—Tuesday. Improve every moment of this day; purchase goods for trade, deal with bankers, clothiers, woolen dealers, judges and persons engaged in the ecclesiastical callings.

25—Wednesday. Avoid litigation, and do not indulge in bitterness of speech; humor the whims and notions of thine associates rather than seek to correct them; the day promotes combustibility and may witness some bad fires; have care in handling animals and chemicals; persons in the mechanical callings are adversely affected.

26—Thursday. Ask no favor of persons in authority; deal not in real estate; buy no merchandise for trade and see that the purse is not lost or its contents wasted; do not speculate or solicit pecuniary advantages from banks or wealthy persons.

27—Friday. Diligently improve the benefic influences which prevail on this day for all the elegant pursuits; architectural and horticultural studies, furnishing and decorating real estate, landscape work and animal painting; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool, and grain; the evening will give pleasure from the drama or musical entertainment, when also social gatherings will be agreeable, notwithstanding the weather may be stormy.

28—Saturday. An indifferent day, giving but little promise of profit or advantage from undertakings now begun; push routine work and duties; postpone every important correspondence and have care in all matters of account that errors are not committed.

29—Sunday. An excellent day for all purposes for which it is appropriate; though the financial interests of religious organizations are considerably injured in these passing days.

30—Monday. Make no contracts pertaining to houses or lands during the forenoon hours, when the artistic pursuits are adversely affected; more than ordinary prudence and circumspection will need to be exercised by the gentle sex with reference to health and deportment, especially such as were born about the 11th of March, June, September or December, of past years. All marriageable persons born about these dates are likely to be much disturbed in mind over their affairs of heart or in their social surroundings. Young gentlemen, so born, should check all impulses towards foolish gratifications either of appetite or passions. Many of them now learn of the fickleness of the human heart. The afternoon of this day invites special activity in the mechanical pursuits, experiments in chemistry, and dealings with military men, druggists, bakers, tailors, carpenters, machinists and engineers.

31—Tuesday. Use this day for applications to public authorities or officers of great corporations, for favor or advantage of any kind in thine affairs; make changes of habitation, travel, and deal with persons noted for eccentricity of habit or dress; attend to patent matters, and such as are novel and original.

FEMALE DISEASES AND THE PILES.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It will cure even the very worst cases, and I will gladly mail a free box to every sufferer. Address, MRS. C. B. MILLER, Box 46, Kokomo, Ind.

A cubic foot of newly fallen snow weighs five and a half pounds and has twelve times the bulk of an equal weight of water.

FREE TO INVALID LADIES.

A safe, simple home treatment that cured me after years of suffering with uterine troubles, displacements, leucorrhoea, etc., sent free to ladies with full instructions how to use it. Address Mrs. L. Hudnut, South Bend, Ind.

GIVES Strength AND VIGOR.



30 Days' Trial

The marvelous power exerted by my Electric Belt and Appliances, induces me to offer it to suffering men on 30 Days' Trial, so certain am I that it will cure and that you will gladly pay for the use of it. To men who have battered their stomachs with drugs I want them to exercise their judgement and consider that Electricity is the greatest power on earth. Its unseen current puts life and force into whatever it touches. The constant, steady life extended by my New Electric Appliances gives instant relief and never fails to cure Rheumatism, Backache, Kidney Troubles, Early Decay, Night Losses, Lack of Nerve Force and Vigor, Nervous Debility, Undevelopement and Lost Vitality. You may not have faith in it now, but

WEAR IT FOR 30 DAYS

and you will then realize why I have such confidence in it as to send it to you ON TRIAL. Write to-day for Illustrated Pamphlet with references and signed testimonials. Sent free in plain sealed envelope.

PROF. A. CHRYSTAL, Inventor,
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LOST MANHOOD

5 DAYS' TRIAL TREATMENT FREE

Prof. Jules Laborde's Wonderful French Restorative

"CALTHOS"

No C. O. D. or Deposit Scheme. Food for Thought.



As a man grows in years, his system gives out here and there. If no help be sought from Science, the trouble grows worse. When the eyesight fails, skilled oculists and opticians soon make the patient see as well as ever. If the teeth decay the expert dentist builds them up permanently with gold, and restores them to their old-time usefulness. If deafness come, specialists in the treatment of the ear quickly bring back the sense of hearing. So it goes until we reach that infirmity commonly called Lost Manhood. The man so afflicted may well be pitied. His thoughts go back to the days of youth, when his veins tingled with the vigor of strength, power and ambition; when he mingled in society and was a *real* man. Possibly you, the reader of this notice, are so afflicted. If that be true, you can have your infirmity cured, just as failing eyesight, hearing and teeth can be corrected.

CALTHOS.—There is a great French remedy named CALTHOS, which restores men to vigor and strength in the organs of true manhood. It cures Varicocele and all weaknesses caused by excesses, overwork or indulgence in stimulants, and develops small or shrunken parts. It is the only discovery of Science which does this. There are many men in Congress, in the Stock Exchanges, in great business houses of large cities—professional men, farmers, laborers—who have had their powers of youth brought back by CALTHOS. You can tell them by the brightness of their eyes, by their erect carriage, by the vigorous, virile way they go about the duties of life.

CALTHOS is the discovery of the celebrated Paris physician, Prof. Jules Laborde. It is sold in America, Canada and Mexico, by The Von Mohl Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, the largest importers of standard medicines in the United States, which is well known for its reliability and high standing in the profession.

This company never, under any circumstances, makes public the names of its patients, although thousands write every year expressing great joy at their recovery. All correspondence relating to the CALTHOS branch of their business is confidential and is kept separate and distinct from their general business.

FREE TRIAL TREATMENT.

To satisfy the doubtful and to show the wonderful strengthening powers of CALTHOS, a five days' trial treatment will be sent FREE to all weak men who write and ask for it. It will be forwarded in a sealed package by mail.

Those who write should remember who they are; they are reliable and responsible and have no connection with the disreputable practice of sending goods C. O. D. No deposit is required. Simply tell them you will give CALTHOS a fair trial for five days and it will be sent absolutely free. Address THE VON MOHL CO., 283 B. Cincinnati, Ohio. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.

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When we say "cured," we mean no patching up, but a positive, never to return cure. Our treatment is by a New Method, painless, and requires

NO SURGICAL OPERATION

no loss of time, and is used secretly at home. We have never failed in over 5,000 cases, and are as sure to cure stricture, and prostatic enlargement as the sun is to rise. Proofs and sealed book free.
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5,000 are very anxious for some one to MARRY. We will send Lists and Photos for 3 Months FREE. The Messenger, Wadsworth, Ill.

LADIES when Doctors and others fail to relieve you, try S. R. & S. W. It never fails, one full treatment free. MRS. E. STARR, St. Louis, Mo.

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I TELL FORTUNES 10 Test Questions answered for 10c. on business or matters of heart, give birth, sex, lock of hair, price hereafter $1.00. ASTROLOGER, Dept. 16, Portland, Me.

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Write The LADY DOCTORS STATE YOUR TROUBLE AND BE CURED AT HOME. OUR REGULATOR GIVES RELIEF IN 24 HOURS. Address WOMAN'S MEDICAL INSTITUTE, Detroit, Mich.

TANSY PILLS! Safe and sure. Send 4 cents for "Woman's Safe Guard." Address Wilcox Specific Co., Dept. 105, Philadelphia, Pa.

Lost Manhood RESTORED by Dr. Wood's Vital Tablets. Sure, speedy cure for all sexual weakness. $1 per month. Ten days trial 10c. by mail. Dr. Wood, 617 La Salle Ave., Chicago.

DR. DIX'S Celebrated Female Powders never fail. 10,000 Ladies declare them safe and sure (after failing with Tansy and Pennyroyal Pills), particulars, 4cts. Dr. S. D. EGAN, Revere, Boston, Mass.

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Original and Only Genuine.



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Should read the "Celebrated Repp Case." In this wonderful book Mr. Repp makes a bold confession and tells how he lost his health, became insane and was at last cured. It introduces a new method of treatment, based upon the chemistry of the urine. Book and mailing case for urine sent free. Consultation and opinion free. J. F. SHAFER, M. D., Urine Specialist, 422 Penn Ave., Pittsburg, Pa.

LADIES Dr. Voux's FRENCH FEMALE PILLS Never FAIL. SAFE ANY TIME. Mail $1.00. VOUX CO., Station D, CHICAGO.

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of all ages who are nervous, and who lack power, energy and vim, can be quickly and permanently cured by the powerful & scientific remedy LEONIN (Lion Vigor). Gives man the vitality of a Lion. Vital Losses, Impotency, Lost Manhood, Varicocele, etc. (no matter how caused) cannot exist after LEONIN is used. We will mail our book and a Week's Treatment FREE postpaid in a plain sealed package, to all men who write for it. No C. O. D., Prescription or Deposit Scheme. No embarrassing questions asked. Costs you nothing to try it. Ad. in strict confidence, THE LEONIN Co., B 1, ST. LOUIS, Mo.

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SILVER CAKE BASKET FREE FREE

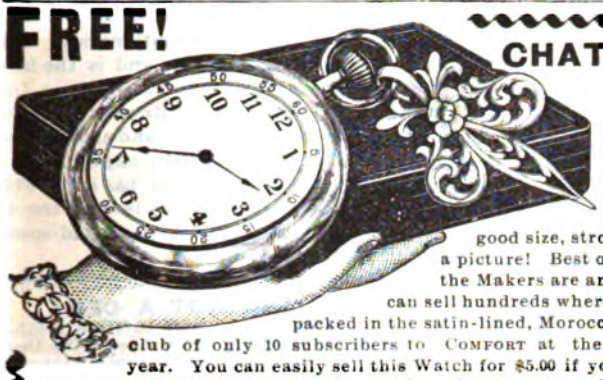


We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have [illegible] of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

FREE! CHATELAINE WATCH

In An Elegant Case FREE.



Every Lady needs just such a Watch. No matter if she has a $50.00 one it won't keep any better time and this is for use and every-day wear. It will last a life time. It is an entirely new pattern. The Pin is good size, strong and handsome. Yes! pretty as a picture! Best of all, we got a Bargain on them, for the Makers are anxious to get them introduced, so we can sell hundreds where one goes first. We will send one, packed in the satin-lined, Morocco covered case **free,** if you get up a club of only 10 subscribers to COMFORT at the **special price of 25 cents per year.** You can easily sell this Watch for $5.00 if you want to, but after you get it you won't part with it for any money. Send us the 10 names and $2.50 and the watch is yours, free. If any man has a sweetheart and wants to make her happy, he should get her this Watch at once. Sent for $2.38 cash. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

BEAUTIFUL LACE REMNANTS.



Upwards of $2 worth of fine Laces for 25 cents. Here is a chance to get valuable, rich and elegant Lace Remnants for almost nothing. Having bought a big lot of Laces at auction, representing every imaginable pattern and quality of Laces, at about one-tenth part of their real value, we are enabled to offer some most astonishing bargains. We put up large assorted packages of these Laces, which, though costing but 35 cents, represent real values of $2 and upwards. These remnants include some of the finest White Laces, Linen Torchon Laces in exquisite patterns, Spanish and Languedoc Cream Laces, Black Chantily Laces, Guipure, Valenciennes, Oriental and American Laces, Swiss Embroidery Trimmings, and in fact samples of almost every kind known to the trade. The manifold uses to which these laces can be applied will appear to every lady reader, or to her male friends who wish to make an acceptable present, as no such bargains has heretofore been offered. Ladies will find them very useful for trimming all kinds of underwear, dresses, aprons, pillow-shams, tidies, etc., etc.; they can also be used to advantage in ornamenting childrens' and infants' clothing, as each package contains such a variety, it can be used for trimming the apparel of the infant or the adult. We send them in various lengths, from one yard up to three and four yards. Our lady readers should not fail to take advantage of this great offer to procure fine laces for a mere song. Price of this valuable package of laces only **25** cents, or two packages for **40** cents. Sent by mail, postpaid.

Including a trial six-months' subscription to this paper with one package; and, if you order two, you will receive two trial subscriptions, (**so send name of one friend when you send for two packages.**)

Preminm Offer. We will send one package of this beautiful lace to any person who will send us the names of two **yearly subscribers to this paper at the special subscription price of 25 cents each.**

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.



GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools,** as shown in the above cut, viz: **1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering** all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately **would cost between $7.00 and $9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, [illegible] and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of [illegible]ware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are **full sized, practical, neat** and **cheap.** It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for $3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city." This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only $2.50** which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 12 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!

The Comical Mirror.



A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums.

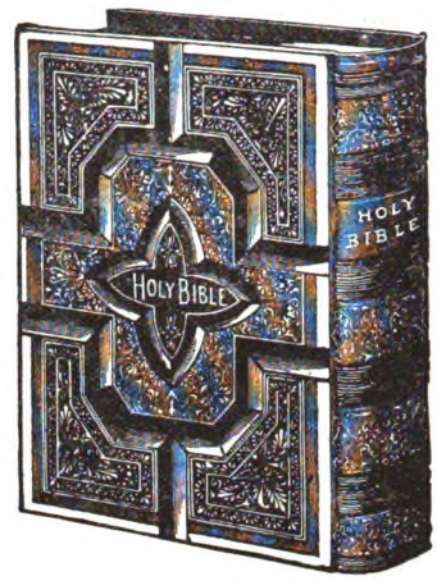


By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.

GRAND OFFER TO YOU. Send us **12** cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; **for 27 cents** we will send you the paper 3 months and **three** mirrors all paid; or, for only **76** cents we will send the paper a whole year and one dozen mirrors by express. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND A FAMILY BIBLE FOR $1.89.

DELIVERED AT YOUR HOME.



This edition excels all others in the excellence of paper and exquisite topography, being printed from an entirely new set of plates costing $20,000. The size of page is 12x9 inches, the print large and clear, and there are TEN BEAUTIFUL FULL-PAGE PHOTOGRAVURE PICTURES of rare artistic excellence and some of the **most superb masterpieces of Modern Paintings,** being in harmony with the justly celebrated OXFORD TEACHERS' BIBLES. They are bound in fine **Morocco Buckram Paneled Sides,** and contain the Old and New Testaments, authorized version, the best concordance extant, and the following helpful features: A table of the passages in the Old Testament quoted in the New; a Chronological Index; an analysis of the Old and New Testaments; an account of the date of writing the books of the New Testament; an index of the Holy Bible; a short description of the Holy Land; a table of kindred forbidden to marry; table of Scripture weights and measures; an alphabetical table of proper names; also a very neat, plain **Marriage Certificate and Family Record.** Our New Bible is just what the people want; excellent paper, handsome illustrations, good, clear print, handsome and durable bindings, and last but not least, an EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY RECORD, entirely different from that contained in any other Bibles in the country. The print is of large size, clear and distinct, just right for grandfather and grandmother to read without their glasses, while the full-page engravings will interest and instruct the little children. It is the book for every member of the family.

Our price by mail or express, charges fully paid to your post-office, is only $1.89. Only think of it! A Bible, 12x9 inches, weighing more than four pounds, for $1.89! In addition to the Bible we will give a year's subscription to this paper; or raise a club of eight subscribers at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, or a club of 16 at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, and we will send it free as a premium. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

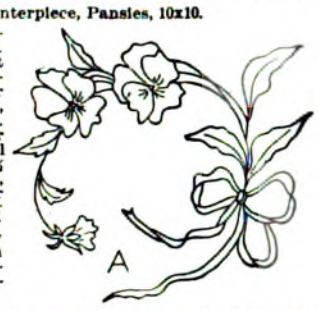
More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Dolly.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



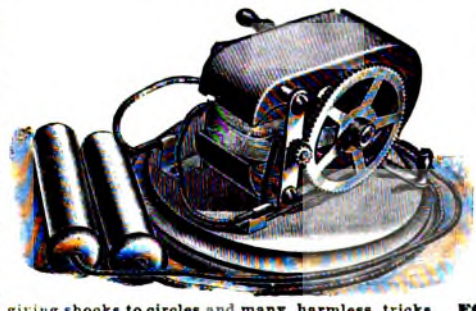
The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

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Read of this Modern Scientific Machine that Heals, Teaches and Amuses.

Electricity no longer the master but the servant of man, represents to us light, heat and force. By these three great powers everything on earth lives and electricity means life. This grand machine is a combined motor and dynamo and gives a perfect electric organization. Most interesting and instructive of the recent products of electrical science; teaches and instructs while it amuses, young and old alike. Scientific in construction and no student or ingenious boy should be without it. Perfectly harmless, but produces no end of fun, by giving shocks to circles and many harmless tricks. **FOR A HOME CURER.** Doctors know almost every known disease and pain yields readily to electrical currents. The cost of electric batteries as generally sold places them far beyond reach of any but the wealthy. This Electrical Machine has been produced by the latest and most improved machinery and at nominal cost as compared with the expensive batteries formerly sold at $8, $10 or $20 each. The great improvements in machinery enables us to produce this and to offer it to you for a mere trifle. **See What Electricity is Used For.** There is no disease of the nerves or any bodily pain which will not yield readily to electric currents. This wonderful machine utilizes the forces of nature; drives out **Rheumatic Pains, Neuralgia** and every species of **blood** and **nerve disease;** Cures **Weakness of every kind and nature and restores youthful health and vigor. Works like a miracle for that worn out feeling and languor and despondency and strengthening nervous system with a direct** (not alternating) **current,** large in volume but pleasant to take, no shock or irritation. Patent switch adjusts current to weakest child or strongest man. A valuable treatise accompanies every machine shipped. We now place nature's great restorative agent, Electricity, within the reach of every sufferer rich or poor.

A Wonderful Offer to All. This Electrical Machine is needed in every home and family. We will send one to any person who will send us $1.00, and 25 cents to pay all shipping charges besides sending our great home paper, COMFORT, subscription paid for one year. ($1.25 for everything.)

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AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.

There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new **All Wool Duster.** Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the daintiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. **Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle** firmly secured with **Bright Aluminum Ferrule,** that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. **A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL.** We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address



COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Helen Gould is an admirable type of balanced, self-contained, generous, American womanhood. Through the golden haze of the glamour her millions throw about her she stands out clearly and sharply, a practical, sensible, loyal, patriotic, American girl. Her wealth has not spelled self-indulgence to her but opportunity—opportunity to help the helpless, to comfort sick children, to aid the needy soldiers and to redeem the name of Gould from a synonym for mere greed of money. The name of Jay Gould was feared and hated from the powers of Wall Street to the dwellers in the far East side slums. He died and no tithe of his millions went for a charitable or philanthropical purpose. Four sons were left but they have not changed public opinion as to the Gould traits. George Gould married an actress, Edith Kingdon—his brother Howard has just sacrificed $5,000,000 by marrying the woman of his choice without the consent of his family. His wife, Kathryn Clemmons, was also an actress. Anna, the youngest daughter, made a brilliant society marriage and is spending her share of the Gould millions merrily with her French Count. Helen Gould is a simple, natural young woman—not at all "strong minded" but earnest and serious. She is not indifferent to the charm of dress, is interested in athletics, is a great reader and a sympathetic friend. From the time she left the schoolroom her name has been connected with charitable efforts. For a time this was looked upon simply as the fad of a society girl. Helen Gould entered the Woman's Law Class at the University of New York and graduated from it with high honors. In every way she has endeavored to fit herself to be a judicious almoner of the wealth at her command. It is not alone that she gives generously and freely of the fortune that is hers but she gives time, care, attention to the manner of giving. She gives herself first and the wealth that is hers, last. She has shrunk from any publicity in the matter, but at the outbreak of the war her rampant patriotism overcame all her shrinking from the public eye and she came forward with her instant offer to the Secretary of War of $100,000. From that time she has been prodigal of health, wealth and time in her devotion to the cause. She has personally visited the camps and hospitals. In her beautiful home at Irvington she has nursed many soldiers back to health. Here she gathered the needy women and paid them liberally to work for the soldiers. No woman who works every day for a livelihood has a busier life than this woman of millions. She has one woman secretary and each day brings its enormous mail connected with the various enterprises under her care. Helen Gould has redeemed the name she bears from the stain that an unscrupulous greed for gold has placed upon it, and the crippled child and the strong man dying for the flag see Helen Gould, not as the inheritor of wealth, but as a gracious, noble-minded woman, whose greatest fortune is in her own personality.

The Empress of China, who is the real power behind the "Dragon's Throne," is the strongest personal influence of the day whose personality is almost unknown. The seclusion that Chinese women of high rank maintain seems to hide this Empress who has stood between the threatening power of Russia on one hand and of England on the other, and who has preserved her life and her influence in the mystery of intrigue, assassination and rebellion that marks Oriental dynasties. Tuen, Empress-Dowager of China, was a slave girl in the Province of Hungary. Her master was Viceroy of the province and the little slave girl gained his favor by a beautiful New Year gift. When he asked how he should reward her she answered: "O wisest and best of men I would like to learn to read." This was an unheard of request in China but the Viceroy was kind and curious and asked the little slave girl why she wished to learn. "That I may be wise and therefore good and being both of these the better able to serve the Viceroy," answered the slave who was one day to be Empress. A silver casket was recently presented to her and within was a book inscribed "Scriptures for the Salvation of the World"—a present from the Christian women of China. In time the slave girl who could read, entered the household of the Emperor and then became Empress of the Flowery Kingdom. While comparatively little is known of her it is certain that she is a woman of strong character and of great ability. She seized the reins of power at a threatening crisis but the final outcome of her influence is yet problematical.

The capture of Omduram by Gen. Kitchener writes "finis" at the end of one of the most exciting and romantic chapters of modern history. It avenges the death of Gen. Gordon and the doom of Khartoom. In place of the victorious figure of the Mahdi we have the conquered Khalifa. Abdullahi Ibre Sayed Mahmud Khalifa el Mahdi is one of the most interesting figures of the age, representing as he does the last mighty convulsive effort of a lost cause. He has resisted the onward march of an aggressive civilization and over one hundred thousand square miles of territory he has ruled supreme. He presents a strange mixture of fanaticism and cold common sense, of tricky cunning and whole souled generosity, of utter ignorance and of trained diplomacy. He was the chief adviser of the Mahdi and it was the Khalifa who planned the campaign that resulted in the capture of Khartoom. The Mahdi urged his followers to put complete trust in his mainstay the Khalifi saying, "All those who believe in God and in me must also believe in him, and should any one notice anything apparently wrong in him they should attribute it to a mystery which they cannot understand and that therefore it must be right." The Khalifa showed a sense of fair play as keen as that of any Yankee and in his treatment of Slatin Pasha he showed a generous kindness even though he was not deceived by the subtilties of the white man. The Khalifa dresses in the most humble of garments and urges humility, sincerity and honesty upon all his followers. He taught his followers to ride fearlessly into battle urged on by the war cry "Fi shan Allah wa Rasulahu (For God and His Prophet)." Clothed in patchwork and rags with no other weapons than swords and spears they charged directly at troops armed with the modern murderous rifles. Crying "Allahu Aklar, Allahu Aklar (God is Great) they rode fearlessly to their death. The Khalifa forbids mourning for the dead who he says are assured of bliss if believers. This man of the desert has built a powerful empire out of a wild and barbarous race. For years he has held the Soudan against English power and held his wild followers through their religious belief. Scarcely able to read and write he has shown that intuitive knowledge of men and affairs that always marks a great leader. He has taught his followers doctrines as austere as those of the early Puritans. Bad language was punished with eighty lashes of the whip, dancing and playing were discouraged. He has ruled autocratically and absolutely a people as little susceptible of control as the whirlwind. In one of his exhortations he preaches a doctrine of absolutism that rings strangely in the democratic nineteenth century, "Obey my orders and the joys of Paradise will be yours. Those who are disobedient and do not take heed to my words are lost, for them, as for the disbeliever, eternal damnation and hell fire are prepared." This is the man whom Gen. Kitchener has conquered.



Viceroy of India! It is a proud position and a proud title, second in rank in the British Empire. It is safe to say, however, that the Right Honorable George Nathaniel Curzon will bear himself in a manner that will seem to patronize even this great position. His friends call this air "a quiet consciousness of his own sufficiency," while his enemies consider it the superciliousself-sufficiency of youthful success. Whatever it may be, it is certain that the life of George Curzon has been singularly successful. He has been constantly in the public eye for the past ten years. He is a University bred man who carried off two prizes at Oxford and a fellowship at All Souls. He entered political life when he won the seat in Parliament from Southport—a seat he has held ever since. No Viceroy of India with the exception of Lord Lawrence has known so much of the country. He knows so much that he may have much to unlearn. All his holidays and vacations have been spent in travel in Asiatic Russia, India, Persia and the land that lies "east of Suez." In the last Conservative government he was Under Secretary for India and under Lord Salisbury he is Under Secretary for foreign affairs. He is an advocate of the "forward policy" on the northwest frontier. He has encountered much advance criticism on account of the unchecked advance of Russia in China, and his defense of the Salisbury administration of foreign affairs has done much in the last year to give him a brilliant Parliamentary record. George Curzon has the genius for hard work and united with it an extreme readiness of speech that is akin to eloquence. His published letters to the *London Times* fill two large volumes and contain an immense quantity of definite data in regard to the East. His personal knowledge of the Northwest frontier was gained upon horseback and so minute is it that he was the only member of Parliament who could correct the error in the speech of a member who did not know the location of the Kohat pass. George Curzon can boast of the claims of long descent, for although his father is a poor country parson, he is fourth Baron Scarsdale and his family dates back eight hundred years. The title of Baron Curzon of Kedleston has just been conferred upon the new Viceroy. The Viceroy of India resides in Calcutta in a rent free palace with horses, coaches and servants also furnished by a liberal government. His salary is over $7000 a month but the larger part of this sum must be spent in entertaining in a gorgeous style, for the Orientals love display and the Viceroy must impress them with the magnificence of the British Empire.



"Ask me not here to turn a careless rhyme. It ill would suit the solemn place and hour, When Haddo's Lord bears to a distant clime The Gordon conscience backed by Britain's power." These are the lines which our Secretary of State, Col. John Hay wrote in the visitors' book of Haddo House just before its owner, Lord Aberdeen, sailed to become Governor-General of Canada. After five successful years, Lord Aberdeen terminated his official residence during the month of November. Lord Aberdeen stands in the foremost ranks of England's peers by virtue of his personality and his rank. His brother, the sixth Lord Aberdeen, threw aside his position and worked for years as an ordinary seaman. His wild adventurous life ended as strangely as it had proceeded. The sea claimed its own, and the younger brother became Lord Aberdeen. His family traces far back to the days of Richard the Lion Hearted. It has numbered great men and statesmen in its lists from Lord Aberdeen the loved Prime Minister of Victoria's young queenhood to the scholarly and practical statesman who just resigned the rule of "Our Lady of the Snows." Lord Aberdeen has just passed the half century mark although his fondness for physical exercise has kept him singularly youthful. He is a skilled rifle shot. He identified himself with the Liberal party and when the Gladstone ministry of 1886 was formed Lord Aberdeen was asked to become Viceroy of Ireland. He accepted this trying honor and during his brief rule succeeded in establishing most friendly relations between himself and the Irish people. For the first time in the history of English rule in Ireland the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Viceroy of Ireland were on friendly terms. Lord Aberdeen is a practical locomotive engineer. As a schoolboy he spent much time on the engine of a local railway and finally mastered all the details from the duties of the fireman to those of the engineer. This knowledge gave him his first start in public life. The question of a select committee on railroad matters came up in the House of Lords and Lord Aberdeen made his first speech relative to this subject. The expert knowledge that he displayed gained him the attention of the House and an important place on the committee when it was finally named. The celebrated Plimpsoll bill on the sending to sea of ships that endangered seamen's lives led to the establishing of a Commission and Lord Aberdeen was made Chairman. He reconciled the warring elements there represented and won the esteem and admiration of all by his courteous but unwavering decisions. Lord Aberdeen has a wide interest in philanthropic affairs and a keenly intelligent grasp of social and political problems of the day. He has given Canada a wise administration and returns to his Scottish home with the love and esteem of the great dependency over which he has ruled. Lord Aberdeen is exceedingly democratic in his tendencies. His affability and courtesy are proverbial and his genial nature almost leads careless observers to forget the strong positive character behind this seeming disregard of the conventionalities of his rank. Haddo House in Scotland is the home of the Aberdeens but they also possess local "habitations" at Vernon in British Columbia, in Grosvenor Square, London, and at the suburb of Dollis Hill. They entertain largely and the visitors' book at Haddo House has many other interesting facts and fancies besides the one with which Col. Hay gave them a "God-speed" in their coming to Canada.

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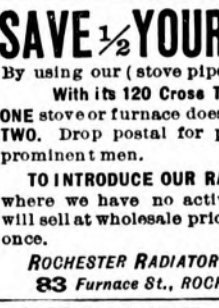


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When soiled discard. Ten Collars or five pairs of Cuffs, 25c. Send 6c. in stamps for sample collar and pair of cuffs. Name size and style.

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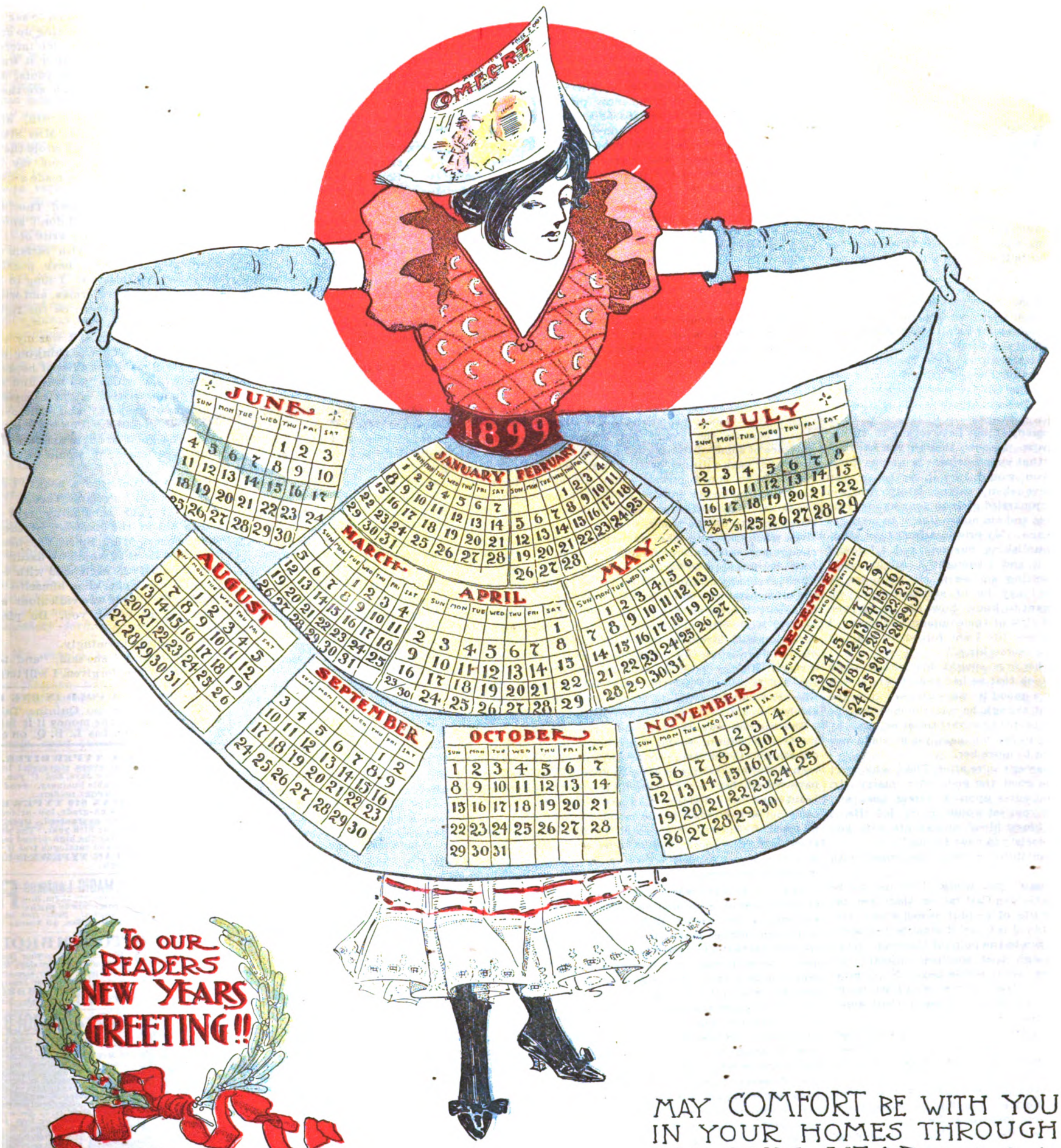
VOL XI NO 3 MN 123

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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Aubertine W. Moore, Fifth Prize.

THE ODD ONE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARA A. UNDERWOOD.

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"PAPA, will you take me as an apprentice? I want to learn to set type."

Mr. Horace Staples, head of the Boston publishing firm of Staples and Stilton, looked up in surprise from the morning paper he was reading, at the tall, graceful, serious-eyed girl who stood before him; then he broke into a puzzled laugh.

"Bless my soul, Theo, what in the world do you mean?" he exclaimed.

"Just what I say, papa, I want to be a printer. I have been thinking about it seriously for a week, and I have decided to have that sweet-looking woman who works at the case near the desk in the upper room to teach me, if she will."

"Upon my word, Theo, you grow odder and odder," said her father looking at her curiously. "Why don't you act sensibly like your sisters and not annoy us all by breaking out into such unexpected fads."

The girl stood with her head thrown slightly back, her hands clasped behind her, a soft pink flush on her fair face and a far away look in her large, dreamy, brown eyes as she replied.

"A great many things have set me to thinking lately papa. I know, though you have not said much, that your business is not as prosperous as you would like it to be, or you wouldn't have taken a partner lately. And you have three unmarried girls on your hands. I am twenty-three and am not so likely to marry as Rose and Anna. My brothers don't take kindly to the publishing business, and I know I should like it, and I thought I might begin with type-setting and learn all branches so that in time I may be of assistance to you. Besides, I want to know how life looks from the point of view of the common workman. I hate the useless life I am forced to lead. I just long to *do* something."

And now her eyes sought his with a tense imperative look that he had come to know well as implying a mood it was useless to argue against. But though he was touched by the tender, unexpected thoughtfulness evinced by her reference to his business, yet he made one more attempt to move her.

"If it's a career you're after, Theo, why don't you take the good the gods offer, marry Mr. Bernard, and enter upon a career that any other girl in your set would glory in? He is rich, of the bluest blood, and as his wife you could sway society to your liking."

Theo's beautifully curved lips curled with contempt.

"Mr. Bernard! you would like me to be chained to a Golden Calf rather than see me living a true life of helpful beneficence! Oh, papa, if his blood is 'blue' it must be because it has been frozen to the point of blueness. Sway society through that soulless animal! I'd rather marry your stable-boy. No, I must meet life face to face. If you won't let me go into your establishment, then I shall apply somewhere else."

"Theo, you try me so," her father cried, "suppose I yield, what would your sisters say, what would my employes say, what would society say?"

The gold-crowned head gave a little toss, the Grecian nostrils slightly quivered, a defiant smile crept into lips and eyes.

"Why, papa," she said. "What can they say but that I'm the 'odd one' of the family? Do let me live up to my reputation."

"Well, go along and talk it over with your mother, child," said Mr. Staples resignedly returning to his paper, "and I'll see about it."

Yes, Theodora Staples was and had been from childhood decidedly "odd." Her two brothers older than herself, and two younger sisters comprised the family. The young men had studied respectively medicine and law and were now slowly getting into practice. Their sisters Rose and Anna, were two rather pretty lively girls of twenty and eighteen. All these went along in the recognized lines of the society in which they moved. With Theodora, the eldest daughter and beauty of the family it was decidedly different. In her childhood she exhibited queer traits of character. She was given to going away by herself, sitting for hours in a state of dreamy reverie, with a happy smile on her lips and a far away look in her large eyes. She resented interruption at such times and afterwards told her parents strange fairy-like tales of what she had seen and heard. But after she had been punished several times for this inclination to romancing, she no longer indulged her imagination in this way, at least there was no further recital of her visions. She was apt too, to stop in the midst of her play, turn her head in a direction where there was no person visible, as though listening, then make some irrelevant remark; but this passed away with her childhood, and the fears for her sanity entertained by her worried parents partly wore away also, since in her bright moods no one could be more charming or reasonable.

But all through her childhood, and even since attaining maturity, she was inclined to do and say the most unexpected things. Her brothers were seriously annoyed by this and her sisters more often amused. "Oh, it's only one of Theo's oddities!" her lively sister Rose would explain to some puzzled visitor. "She's the salt that savors the commonplace of our lives." To her father she was a puzzle, but to her invalid mother she was a comfort and joy. Who brought so much sunshine into the sick room as Theo? Whose step was so soft, whose hand so deft, whose presence made the evenings when Mr. Staples was deep in business problems, and her younger daughters absent at party or theater, times of sacred soul communion, reading to her from Emerson, the Brownings and others, or from some wise magazine essayist bits of gold from mints of truth, which led to long conversations between mother and daughter that drew them both into higher intellectual and spiritual altitudes, albeit she could not always follow Theo's daring leadership into rare atmospheres.

One of the oddities which gave most offense to her brothers, which even worried her mother, and against which her sisters most strongly protested, was the utter unreasonableness as well as strength of her attractions and antipathies for persons. And indeed it was not pleasant for her brothers when they brought home a gentleman friend whom they highly honored, to find his introduction to their beautiful sister met on her part with cool hauteur; or at parties given in their own home to find Theo made conspicuous by her absence, simply because she "could not endure" the presence of some of the invited guests. When her father gave a dinner party it was not always that he could prevail upon his eldest daughter to take her invalid mother's place at the table. Rose had of late come to be the one relied upon to do the honors of such occasions. Even when traveling she was very likely to change her seat unceremoniously because it made her unhappy to be in near proximity to often personally unknown fellow travelers. On the other hand she would evince a strong attachment to some servant or dependent of the family; while often she would enter into conversation with strangers who took her fancy on street car or railway. Still there was always a certain dignity in all she said and did, which repelled familiarity on the part of those she liked and which prevented those with whom she had no affiliation from quite hating her.

She was now twenty-three and strangely, so her family thought, so far had shown no inclination to listen favorably to any one of the many eligible young men who would fain have wooed her favor. Despite the striking beauty and the pleasing manners which became her so well when in the mood, there was no trace of coquetry or approach to flirtation about her. She became ice at once with each would-be wooer so soon as words or actions intimated his hope.

And now here she was in one of her perverse moods demanding permission to learn a trade, and such a dirty trade! But her father knew from many earlier experiences with this odd child of his that she would never rest satisfied until she had tried this new experiment, as their family doctor, when consulted as to her strange, childish freaks, had warned the parents to beware of too strongly crossing the will of this wayward one, with dark hints of possible insanity if her whims were opposed. But what a trial such oddity was in a girl so lovely and generally so lovable!

As foreseen, Theo had her way, and a few weeks later found her promoted to a case of her own in one of the rooms where mainly women printers were employed. She had really shown remarkable aptness in learning to set type, and as the quiet widow whom she had chosen as her teacher informed her, gave promise of becoming an expert if she kept at it long enough. She had taken to it with real enthusiasm and she made a striking picture dressed in a high-necked apron of dark stuff to protect her black dress, her cheeks flushed with interest, and a pretty frown between her eyebrows as she bent over the stick of type in her hand while she consulted with rapid glance the next word in the copy. At least so thought Mr. Ambrose Stilton, recently taken into the house as a partner, but whom Theo had not met before her type-setting mania had taken possession of her.

But Theo had entered upon this experiment with a serious purpose in view. She wanted really to know the lives of working girls, with a hope to be of help to them. So at the noon hour, and at other leisure times, she cultivated the acquaintance of such girls as seemed most interesting to her, leading them to talk of themselves until she won from them a most affectionate yet respectful place in their hearts.

All unsuspected by herself she had also won the passionate admiration of her father's partner. But Ambrose Stilton was too wise to commit himself in any way until he felt somewhat sure of his ground, especially with one who had the reputation of "the odd one." That oddity in her only made her all the more attractive to the very strong willed young man who delighted in overcoming obstacles of whatsoever nature.

In his official capacity he had opportunities for addressing her which otherwise would not have been possible. As for Theo, she decided at once that Mr. Stilton was one of her antipathies, and when her father introduced her she greeted him in her haughtiest manner, with a little nod of indifference. But this repulsion gradually disappeared and she soon found him rather agreeable.

Ambrose Stilton was tall, broad-shouldered, a good figure, suave, alert and wide awake in manner, dark skinned almost as a Spaniard, with close cropped black hair, shining black eyes, Roman nose and well-shaped mouth, half concealed by a carefully trimmed mustache. He was a man whom most girls would think very attractive, but a student of physiognomy would have detected about the mouth hard and cruel lines, inflexible strength of will in the curves of the jaws, shifty, treacherous lights in the piercing eyes. Something of this Theo felt and she avoided much conversation outside of business matters.

Her father had taken her all over the establishment when she first entered. On the floor below the one where she worked, the book printing was done, presided over by a young foreman, Oliver Norman, whose quiet dignity of manner, dark blue melancholy eyes and Greek profile had arrested Theo's attention as, at her father's desire he explained some of the working of the machinery. He seemed about twenty-five.

"Isn't he rather young, papa," asked Theo, as they proceeded to other portions of the building, "to have charge of so many people, many of them older than himself?"

"Yes," replied her father, "he does seem young, but he is quite a genius in his way. He comes of a family that have seen 'better days,' as the saying is, and when he was obliged to leave college at seventeen, he chose to learn the printer's trade. He went into it with enthusiasm too. There isn't any part of the printing and publishing business which he doesn't understand, so that he is really more proficient than most men twice his age. He has also considerable mechanical skill. He is at work now on an invention which he thinks will be a great improvement in one part of our press machinery. I have partitioned off a corner in the office on that floor where he can work at odd times on his model. If it's what he represents, it may bring him a pretty income when he gets it patented."

"Oh, papa," cried the deeply interested Theo, "why in the world didn't you take him into partnership instead of Mr. Stilton?"

"Because, my dear, the business needed money and push more than brains or knowledge of the business. I have secured both in Mr. Stilton, who would not be able to fill Norman's place in the direct management of such a happy-go-lucky set of printers as we have. For all his quiet way Norman gets more work out of them than any man we have ever had in his place."

Though Oliver Norman's business brought him frequently into the department where Theo worked, he never seemed to note her presence nor that of any of the working women save as workers, and it was two months after her entrance upon her new life before he spoke to her. It came about in this way.

Theo's own individuality was, to herself, a profound mystery. With the exception of her mother the members of her family were prosaic, "correct" personalities. Her own repressed self which broke forth ever and anon into emphatic expressions, seemed so often to perplex or horrify her relatives, that she unceasingly wondered why she was so different from them. But her knowledge that the thoughts she longed to share with others in regard to the mysteries of being, would be met with troubled stares and uncomprehending replies, had caused her to seek to conceal her real self more and more as she grew older.

Staples & Stilton, in addition to book publishing, did the printing for various periodicals. In this department Theo's first work was done, and one day she became deeply interested in some copy given her for one of these which dealt with some of the questions which had so haunted her mind; its title was "Psychic Mysteries," and in it she found allusion to many of the so-called illusions which had been hers in childhood and to others that still worried her at times. It was delightful to know that others beside herself had had the same experiences, the causes of which the writer seemed desirous of solving; explaining the various theories offered by the society for Psychical Research and adding a mere hint of his own. The last two or three pages had been given to another girl, but so soon as the article was complete she sought out the "galleys" containing it, and was deeply surprised to find there the name "Oliver Norman." She recalled that her father had mentioned the fact of his contributing occasional articles to journals and she wondered much if this article was written by him.

The next day as he passed she felt a strong impulse to speak to him, but while she restrained herself from actually doing so, her imperious inner self called instinctively, though silently, "Oliver Norman! Oliver Norman! speak to me!"

As he drew near his pace involuntarily slackened, he turned toward her with a puzzled look, passed onward a step or two, then came to her side.

"Excuse me Miss Staples," he stammered. "Did you speak to me?"

Theo blushed furiously as she raised her serious brown eyes to the earnest sea-blue pair gazing down upon her.

"No, Mr. Norman," she replied, "I did not speak your name but I was thinking it very strongly and wishing much to ask you a question. Yesterday I was setting up an article for the Phoenix Magazine which interested me so much that I read it all after it was in proof. The name signed to it was yours, and I would like to be sure that you are the writer of "Psychic Mysteries."

His eyes brightened. "Oh, are you interested in that question, Miss Staples? I am so glad to hear it. Yes, I wrote the article but I did not venture to express my own views very strongly. Have you made a special study of it, may I ask?"

"Oh, dear, no," confessed Theo, feeling now very much at her ease, "I don't know anything about these theories you write of—I only know that they harmonize with certain facts of my own existence which have puzzled me and chagrined my relatives. I long to know more of this subject Mr. Norman, and will be greatly obliged to you to set me on the right track to gain knowledge on it."

"Why, Miss Staples, it was my own few experiences that set me to thinking on the subject. I will make out a list of books by writers new and old which you will find serviceable. I am now writing a book myself on the problems of telepathy and clairvoyance and I would be profoundly obliged if some*time you* would be good enough to tell me of some of your experiences; it would be so helpful to me."

"What! to put into a book? I couldn't do that you know," declared Theo.

"Not if your personality were concealed? and to aid in the discovery of the true laws which govern Mind, Spirit, the intelligence of the universe—that which we hardly yet know how to name?" he exclaimed with enthusiasm. Then suddenly checking himself—"O, pardon me Miss Staples, it was ridiculous and impertinent in me to ask you. Do please forgive me!"

Theo smiled charmingly.

"I understand," she said, "and to prove to you that you are forgiven, I will tell you now

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one phase of my experience. I seem to know instantly with most persons I meet for the first time, whether I can trust to their intuitions to understand me when I speak to them frankly, and of my own inmost self, without attempting to conform to the standards of conventionality. To those towards whom I take an instant antipathy I am a sealed book. Other types alternately win and repel me. Still others I feel an absolute indifference toward; they bore but do not cause antagonism. Now, I felt I could trust you as one of the first mentioned. Otherwise I would not have spoken to you of the peculiarities which make me the *odd* one in my family. Your article offered me the first clue to the mysteries of my own mind, and I could not help saying what I did!"

His eyes sought hers frankly, sympathetically, comprehendingly.

"I sometimes think," he said gently, "that if we could all act directly from such intuitions, we should really make fewer mistakes than we do when guided by the formal laws of society, in our social intercourse with each other. I am sure your intuitive knowledge makes it unnecessary for me to say that your words will not be repeated. May I bring you the list of books to-morrow?"

"If you will be so kind," and she turned hastily to her half-filled stick and neglected copy.

This was the beginning of a new life of thought for Theo. She procured the books suggested by Norman. In these she found reported cases analogous to her own childish experiences; these she read to her parents who thus became interested in the subject, and at Mr. Staples' suggestion Oliver Norman was invited to the house to explain his theories as to thought transference, etc., to them. This led to further calls when a few intimate friends were invited to be present and experiments were made in various directions of Psychical phenomena. Rose and Anna and some of their young friends thought it great fun at first; especially when they found it possible occasionally to guess correctly the thought of others present. But their enthusiasm died out, and soon the experiments were only pursued by Theo and Mr. Norman, who found themselves capable of reading each other's thoughts when definite things were clearly fixed in one mind and the other was in receptive mood.

So, although Norman never called at her house unless he was requested to do so for some experiment, yet a sort of intimacy was established between Theo and himself—an intimacy which was strengthened by Norman's services in her lately begun work among working women. She had, with the help of some of the women printers in her father's employ, started a Working-Women's Club for the benefit of all who earned their living by daily labor. In this club she would only accept the office of secretary, as that called for real service. The president's office was filled by one of the brightest members, the forewoman of a cloak-making establishment. As Norman had considerable experience in the formation of societies of working men, he was glad to be of use in suggesting forms for constitution, bylaws, resolutions, etc., and advising as to the study of parliamentary forms in conducting their meetings.

At first Mr. Staples had looked with suspicious disfavor upon Theo's friendliness toward Oliver Norman, but after spending two or three evenings with them, and observing Theo's unconscious attitude of social superiority, and Norman's evident absorption in his finely spun theories, he ceased to be alarmed.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Blaze of the Vulture's Eye.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HARRIET W. SEAVER.

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WAS a girl eighteen years old then, just home from school, waiting around (all the villagers said) for my step-father to die and leave to me, the only relative,—his estate and fortune which amounted to a goodly sum in those days.

Some said I could not get along agreeably with my step-father, others went even further, explaining, as a cause for our disagreement, that I had a love affair while away at school which he was trying to break up—but that's another story. The facts were, we were *not* congenial, as is too frequently the case, and during my three years' absence on the continent, he had made the acquaintance of a young aristocrat of an adjoining estate and had resolved, when I had completed my studies, we should marry, which was for many reasons distasteful to me. So during my unfrequent visits home there was continual argument and very rarely I returned to school without some severe and even threatening talk which resulted in a vow that I should never go home again. However, as each vacation came I had forgotten (or tried to forget) the previous storms, and was only too glad to return again to the quiet restful country existence.

On this especial afternoon a ragged, dirty-looking individual shambled up the avenue and being the only one in sight, he asked me for a drink of water; after having made way with half of it he began to unload from his shoulders a huge bundle and proceeded as all peddlers do to exhibit his wares. Though I had nothing in particular to do, I did not want to be bothered with examining his array of useless trinkets and while I was shaking my head and expostulating I noticed he dropped accidently into the half glass of water, what appeared to be a smooth, round greyish colored stone, and the next moment the whole tumbler was illumined with a brilliant red light.

Immediately I inquired what sort of a thing it was, but he knew scarcely more about it than did I, except that a few months before, when he was a minor servant in the German court, one of the maids had said it was some little heir-loom and had given it to him, saying "as long as this remains as it is you will know *I* am constant."

The peddler was as amazed as I at the sudden change in the stone—and believing then in the unconstancy of his love, he angrily threw it into the hedge and muttering to himself picked up his traps and went his way.

A few days later father found the little thing and after amusing ourselves with watching it blaze for awhile he put it into his pocket and the incident entirely slipped my memory, until a short time after it was brought to my mind, by this article in one of our papers:

"Body of a man, probably a German peddler found on the road between A— and B—. Death due to heart failure."

Sultry August passed and then September much in the same way as all my vacations went. I was either left entirely to myself or else continually nagged and stormed at by my poor gouty old father, and the day set for my return to school was hailed with delight. The morning came at last, my trunk was already on its way to the little stage depot. I was only waiting for my father to come down to his breakfast and have the farcical, though necessary ceremony of leave taking over, when all at once the man who had gone to waken him came crying through the corridor, "The Master is dead! The Master is dead," and true enough it was. I hastened to his room dazed by this startling news, and there he lay as though in a profound slumber. Physicians were summoned but all in vain, and "heart failure" was pronounced the cause.

Even the most disliked relative or connection, have we only *one*, becomes in a way dear to us when we feel we have lost our last family tie, and for one brief moment I shed the truest tears of remorse and shame that I could not undo many things of the past. My prospective return to the school was indefinitely postponed. After the funeral the property had to be settled, and then it was my severest trial came. This young neighbor who had become the boon companion of my father asked to have his body exhumed and examined, and for reasons which I never knew, the body was removed and the medical examiner pronounced it a case of *slow poisoning*. As he was not addicted to any opiate habit, tobacco smoking or any thing of that sort, I could not believe but what it was, as they had first said, simply heart failure, and I was the more stunned with the intelligence that *I* was under arrest for his murder!

Those days are shrouded in such gloom, I remember nothing except that there was insufficient evidence to convict me, while *circumstances* were against me; I was acquitted, though hundreds of fingers pointed at me in shame and disgust as I left my home, with our old housekeeper, to travel, perchance forget.

Two years after—in one of the gardens of Vienna, I overheard a familiar story a man was telling for the amusement of a few chance acquaintances. He mentioned my stepfather's name, then *mine*, and as he concluded, he drew a tumbler of water toward him and dropped into it what sounded like a pebble, adding: "This the codger carried in his pocket and gave to me only the day before he died, and, it developed such peculiar phenomena that until recently for fear of losing it I have kept it locked in my chest, in hopes some day to find out what it is." And turning slightly I saw my father's former companion, and in the glass, before the group of listeners, was the same red glare which so angered the peddler that summer afternoon. I drew my veil closer and prepared to withdraw, when the young man speaking apparently fainted. Restoratives were administered to no avail, and before a doctor could reach him his pulse had stopped.

In the excitement of caring for him, all else was forgotten, and seizing the opportunity I took the stone from the glass and hurried to the street. It did seem as though nothing but death had been the lot of all who had kept the little stone-like trinket and I began to fear there was something uncanny in its makeup. So I called a cab and drove to the nearest chemical laboratory where an eminent chemist, after examining it a moment, exclaimed wildly, "Marvelous! and have you not read in German folk-lore of 'the Blaze of the Vulture's Eye?' "

Then laying the eye on the window he proceeded to tell me that over a hundred years ago in Vienna there lived an alchemist, who for some wrong done him by the Emperor sought revenge. The vulture's eye was known to be extremely absorbent, so taking the eye balls from fifty or more of these birds, he soaked them for years in some mixture he secretly compounded, which if kept in continued contact with the body was a most deadly poison. These he gave as talismans to the Royal Household proving their inert power by showing the effect of water at a certain temperature poured over them. (The water caused a slight chemical reaction). He moreover stipulated that they must be worn constantly in order to have the desired effect.

The heat of the body caused the chemicals absorbed by the eye to emit a poisonous gas which penetrated the entire system, and within two months all who wore these trinkets were dead.

The cause was investigated, the chemist put to death by his *own method*, and the "talismans" were all——and just at that moment came a flash and a blaze as a wee ray of the warm noon sun (shining on the sill where the eye had been carelessly laid for the moment), had caused the final chemical re-action, and the Vulture's eye blazed for the last time.

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PATENT MEDICINES

which are largely consumed throughout the country, by all classes of people, there is a percentage of alcohol which puts them on a level with beer, rum, and whiskey as intoxicants. It is the smallness only of the dose prescribed which prevents a prompt recognition of the intoxicating effects of these so-called medicines by those who use them.

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Their chief value lies in their alcoholic effect as a stimulant. In fact, those who know, attribute the benefits ascribed to this class of medicines wholly to the stimulative effect of the alcohol they contain. They are used largely by persons not in the habit of drinking liquors, and the little dose taken three or four times a day is as stimulating to these people as his regular 'finger' of 'bitters' is to the regular liquor drinker.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

"What ought to be done at least is to *compel every patent-medicine manufacturer to put on the wrapper of his bottle the quantity of alcohol it contains.* That would at least leave people to exercise their own judgments. More than that, no paper truly interested in temperance reform should print the advertisement of any alcoholic medicine. It should be the duty of every temperance organization and branch in the country to look into this question, agitate it, and deal with the facts just as earnestly and as honestly as other facts have been dealt with."

Appreciating the gravity of the issue raised by the strong statement of facts made in the foregoing article, we wish to call general attention to the fact that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription contain

NO ALCOHOL, NO WHISKEY, NO INTOXICANT OF ANY KIND.

These medicines are equally free from opium and other narcotics.

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While the negative features of Dr. Pierce's medicines may only interest some of the readers of this article, the positive features of these medicines must be of interest to every one. The great value of "Golden Medical Discovery" in the cure of diseased or deranged conditions of the stomach and digestive and nutritive organs is testified to by tens of thousands who have found health and healing in this great remedy. The "Discovery" increases the action of the blood making glands, and by curing the diseases which corrupt and cripple the stomach and digestive and nutritive organs, it enables a full and pure supply of blood to be sent to every part of the body.

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A CLOSE CALL.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GUY E. MITCHELL.

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WHILE lounging on my couch late one night in Nicaragua, smoking a last few whiffs before going to bed, I was roused into action by hearing a terrific squealing in the pig pen a short distance back of the ranch house, followed by a deep-toned roar and some lively shouting in Spanish. I grabbed my heavy shotgun loaded with slugs and ran out, but was too late by far for a shot, as his majesty, the jaguar, was by that time several hundred yards away. The pigs, however, were safe. Fortunately for them Alvarez was just stirring up the embers of his camp-fire preparatory to roasting a couple of bananas for a light bedtime lunch, when his keen eye caught the dark form of the jaguar as he slipped along to the pig pen, and snatching up a glowing ember, he rushed out there just as the jaguar was gathering for a spring into the pen and the pigs were screaming with fright.

I was making a hunting visit of a couple of months at Senor Montigo's banana plantation on the Escondido River, Nicaragua, and as I had been unable thus far to bag a jaguar, I determined to make a great effort in the morning to capture this one's skin. It had rained heavily during the forenoon; the weather promised fair for the morrow, but then one may always expect to get soaked along the Central American coast.

By daylight Alvarez, more eager than myself, and I were on the broad trail of the jaguar, his big footprints showing up plainly in the soft mud where he had jumped away from the pig pen, leading along the edge of the plantation, in and out among the bananas. We did not expect to find him very soon, but about a mile back of the plantation in the depths of the tropical forest his tracks merged in with those of hundreds of wild hogs, or peccary. These latter had been eating the palm nuts and their hoof tracks literally covered every inch of the ground. We searched very carefully but could find no other trail of the big cat than the one leading in among the peccary. At last Alvarez took a wide circuit around the spot where we had been hunting, and this time found the big tracks leading away, clear and distinct. I started forward keenly but the Nicaraguan declared that the tracks were not very fresh and must belong to another jaguar; yet he was sure they were the same footprints we had followed from the pig pen. There the tracks were, however, plainly before me, and I followed them along without paying much attention to Alvarez's speculations. I soon found them trending out toward the river, on which the ranch house was located.

"Well!" I thought, "that cat is just laying around here, bound to get those pigs whether or no; and with all these wild hogs around here too."

In one place the trail led over a stream. The stream itself was small, but during the heavy rainy season it had cut out a channel between banks twenty feet apart. This the jaguar had

cleared at a bound—a magnificent leap.

"This he-jaguar," declared Alvarez. "I think bad. Look here. Sharpen his claws on tree; tear bark."

"He was evidently hungry last night to try and steal the pigs so close to the house," I replied.

At last the trail struck the river, though a mile or more from the ranch house, and then proceeded along its banks, directly for the house, traveling in a well-worn path used by the fruit cutters. It was only a little past noon and I marvelled that the jaguar should come so near the house with the men working around, in broad daylight, but I walked along rapidly with my gun at full cock, expecting every minute to come face to face with a pair of glaring eye-balls and a great tawny skin, spotted with black. After I had traversed about half the distance to the house the Nicaraguan, who was behind me and seemed to have lost all interest in the hunt, said coolly:

"What you hurry home for? You hungry? This last night's track. I told you I knew this not fresh track."

Still half afraid to take my eyes from before me, I turned around to look at the man and then realized that we had been, ever since leaving the peccary tracks, following the old trail of the jaguar of the night before as he approached the ranch for his raid on the pig pen. To say that I was disgusted would be mild. I let the hammer of my gun down with a snap that almost exploded the cartridge, and walked along sullenly, picturing the game that would be made of me by Thurman and the others in the house, the former having refused in the morning to go on any "wild goose chase after jaguars," which he said never were around when you were ready to shoot them. It did not even arouse my admiration to see where the animal had jumped another stream not very far from the house, apparently alighting on the other side as lightly as a feather. The tracks led past the house and directly for the pig pen, but I had no further interest in them and was just entering the porchway and about to stand my gun up in unutterable disgust, when I heard a loud report a short way back of us.

"There's that lazy Thurman," I thought, "out shooting birds. I hope he kills something. I feel like killing something or some one myself."

In a few minutes in came Thurman covered with sweat and excitement.

"Hi there! you and Alvarez, come out here with me. I've shot something I want to show you. He's a bird."

"Well I supposed it was a bird when I heard your gun go off. Why didn't you bring it in?"

"Well there's something to show you about it. Come on both of you. Did you kill any jaguars?"

"No," I answered fiercely.

We followed him along a few yards from the ranch-house to a point where he had struck the creek across which the jaguar had made the leap, thus meeting our trail we had just traversed and I had trailed the jaguar right up to my starting point of the morning, when there near the bank of the creek, lay a great dark body stretched out motionless, an immense dead jaguar.

"How's that?" Thurman said modestly. "I only had one load in my gun, too."

"Whew! Bully for you, old man!" I cried, forgetting my resentment and disgust at sight of the noble game, yet wishing too it had been brought down by my own shot. "But this beats all. Why, we came along here not fifteen minutes ago."

"We lucky," Alvarez said quietly. "That brute trail us instead we trail him. Good thing we walk fast along here; beat him in. He catch us, make spring. He hungry; look how lean."

"Well," Thurman said, "I had an exciting time of it and he came pretty near getting all my nerve, if not my skin. I started out up the creek a few minutes ago with my shot gun, when you passed and so did not call to you for fear of scaring it. You had hardly gone by when I saw through a little glade in the brush this fellow loping along on your trail and cutting the air with sweeps of his tail. He evidently suspected something for he stopped an instant and gave me time to sling out my shells containing bird shot and jam in a couple of brass shells loaded with four and a half drachms of powder and big slugs. The stream lay between me and the jaguar, and just as I snapped the breech of my gun shut he came out on the bank and saw me. He looked as big as a house and his eyes glared at me horribly but I had a bead on him and as he paused I pulled the trigger. Nothing but a snap resulted and then I remembered that these shells had been wet. The beast gave a toss of his head and crouching low, sprang out into the air toward me. I was kneeling about twenty feet from the bank and it seemed as he came flying through the air as though he would reach me with that single leap, but he fell short luckily even of making the bank, catching it with his forelegs and claws; yet he was up on it in an instant, crouching for another spring. I said my prayers in case my second shell did not explode, and taking as steady aim as I could, pulled my other trigger, just as he rose grandly in the air on his leap. My big gun kicked me like a mule and I dropped it and rolled over to one side, grabbing for my belt knife to fight it out for my life. There was a tremendous thud as the body of the jaguar came down directly on my gun, showing how true had been his spring, and I lay there for a moment expecting to see the great paws raised to claw the life out of me. He was dead though; but I tell you I don't want any more such close calls as that."

HER LAST ASSIGNMENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JULIETTE M. BABBITT.

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HENRIETTA Fair was a pale, slim little thing with curly, reddish brown hair, big earnest grey eyes and a quiet, reserved manner which did not encourage familiarity. No one about the Leader office, except Mr. Jordansen, the managing editor, knew much about "the fair Henrietta" as some of her fellow reporters called her, but not in her hearing. It was understood, however, that this was her first attempt at newspaper work; that Mr. Jordansen was a friend of her family and had given her the place. She "did" receptions, weddings, teas and such affairs at which some of the young women, on the paper, turned up their noses in scorn of such weak stuff. They wanted to write about startling and sensational things; make big "scoops" and have their pictures—in impossible attitudes and absurd attire—in the many hued Sunday editions, their ideal newspaper woman being a "hustler" and "one of the boys."

Henrietta was just eighteen when she came back from her last term at an exclusive educational institution for young ladies to the cosy flat, in an old-fashioned house, in one of the quietest streets in New York, which had been ever since she could remember, the home of her mother, herself and faithful old Sarah, nurse, housekeeper, maid-of-all-work. Though much disappointed, Henrietta had not been alarmed when a letter came from her mother saying she was not well enough to see her little girl graduate—Mrs. Fair was always, more or less, an invalid—and was quite unprepared to find her mother really ill. Even the young girl could see that the illness was more of the mind than body and insisted upon knowing the cause. She was told that, from being comfortably well off they had become, through the failure of a firm having charge of their financial affairs, almost penniless; that, save for a couple of hundred, or so, in bank, their furniture and personal belongings, they had nothing at all.

"And, what is to become of us, my darling child, I don't know," concluded Mrs. Fair, hopelessly.

"Don't worry, mamma dear," said Henrietta, soothingly, "I will take of you, never fear. It would be a pity—after going to school all these years—if I could not make a living for three women. I am going down, this moment, to beard dear Mr. Jordansen in his den and make him give me something to do for the Leader. Even if I could teach I wouldn't like to, but I've always thought I'd like being a newspaper person," and, marching off, with the fearlessness of inexperience, accomplished her object.

Born and brought up in the same quiet old town in the heart of the Empire state, Stephen Jordansen—some fifteen years the older—had known Mary Fair from her babyhood and had hoped to make her his wife. Before he had put that hope into words she married George Warren, a handsome stranger, about whom she knew very little. An orphan, with ample means but no near relatives, she went, unhindered, to her fate and learned, all too soon, that her husband was wild, dissipated, unworthy the affection of any good woman and without any real love for the wife whose money he was flinging away. Twelve miserable months went by. Then George Warren was arrested for a crime committed several years before; tried, condemned and sentenced to prison for life. His wretched wife, seeking to hide her shame, resumed her maiden name and, with her baby girl, the remnant of her fortune and her nurse, Sarah—who would not be left behind—went to New York where she knew but one person, Stephen Jordansen, who had gone there soon after her marriage. He had been her firm friend, ever since, and Henrietta, looking upon him as a sort of uncle—she knew no other—did not hesitate to apply to him in this emergency.

Without allowing his partiality to be seen more than he could help, the managing editor made things easy for the young beginner and kept her near him when she was in the office. In this way, she saw more of Tom Danvers than was good for her peace of mind. Tom was a big, handsome blonde fellow, son of the principal stock holder of the concern and a great friend of Mr. Jordansen. He was supposed to be studying law but spent considerable time writing rather clever articles which the editor—secretly proud of his pupil—professed to criticise, severely. The young man was very nice to Henrietta but too deeply in love with another girl to suspect the growing infatuation of his friend's protege.

One day he brought two ladies to see Mr. Jordansen, from whom they received a warm welcome. The younger, a tall, slender brunette with soft dark hair, was Miss Katherine Vinsen, the motherless daughter and only child of Peter Vinsen, the several-times-millionaire. The other, Mrs. Von Arnheim, a stately, handsome lady of middle age, was Miss Vinsen's aunt and chaperone. Henrietta, coming in to speak to her friend, hesitated in the doorway. Mr. Danvers shook hands with her, drew her forward and said:

"Miss Vinsen, I want you to know Mr. Jordansen's friend, Miss Fair——"

"And," interrupted Henrietta, "one of his reporters."

She had seen, at a glance, that the young lady—whom she knew, by sight, as one of the leading belles of the season—was something nearer than a friend of Mr. Danvers, and resolved that there should be no misapprehension as to her own position.

"Indeed," laughed Miss Vinsen, her black eyes meeting the upturned grey ones as she held out her daintily gloved hand. "And, what does a little girl like you find to report?"

"Nothing very important, as yet," replied Henrietta. "Only weddings, receptions and such things. I hope to do less frivolous work, sometime."

"Just now," declared Miss Vinsen, a little flush tinting her olive cheeks, "I find 'such things' rather important. Auntie and I—my aunt, Mrs. Von Arnheim, Miss Fair—have been working very hard for some tableaux we are giving to-morrow night, for a pet charity. Won't you come and write them up? There will be dancing afterward, and I am sure you will enjoy that. Please, Mr. Jordansen, tell Miss Fair she must come, and don't you fail us either. We would be awfully disappointed if you did."

Mrs. Von Arnhein added a pleasant word or two, then they all said good-by and went away.

"That is the girl Tom Danvers is going to marry," remarked Mr. Jordansen, very busy at his desk. He did not care to meet Henrietta's eyes just then. He had realized, all at once, that he was much to blame for having allowed a young, impressionable girl to see so much of Tom Danvers—lovable fellow that he was—and deeply regretted his thoughtlessness. "It is a splendid match; Katherine is one of the nicest girls I know. Tom is an awfully good fellow and they are evidently very deeply in love."

"Yes, indeed," assented the girl, brightly. "That is as plain to be seen as that Miss Vinsen is exceedingly beautiful. But, I came in to ask which of these weddings I shall do. I can't be in three places, so far apart, at the same hour, you know."

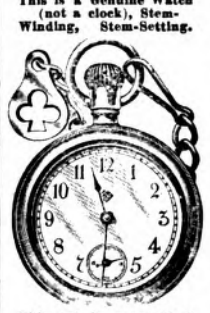
"Take the Ward-Damon affair. That is most important, and, be sure, Henny, to go to the Vinsen's, to-morrow night. They are people worth knowing; their house is very beautiful; the pick of society will be there and I know you will have a good time. Say all the nice things possible, about the folks in the tableaux—that's all Katherine really cares to have said—and when they are over, fix up your account and give it to me. I want you to stay for the dancing. Do you need any money for fixings? You are the only little girl I have, you know."

"Not a cent, thank you, dear Mr. Jordansen," replied Henrietta. "Mamma fixed me up, finely, before the crash—planning to give me a nice time, last summer—and lots of my things have never been worn. I fancy I'll look all right, so far as clothes are concerned, but can't imagine any one wanting to dance with me. I'll have my copy ready for you and will try to do my best to please the very best man I know," and she went out, sadly torn between a desire to see Tom Danvers and Miss Vinsen again, and dread of the pain the sight would give her.

It was a trifle late when she presented her card, next evening, at Mr. Vinsen's—her mother had been less well than usual—and the first tableau was "on" when she shook hands with Miss Vinsen and her aunt at the door of the superb ball room overflowing with Gotham's best people in their best clothes and finest jewels. Miss Vinsen, radiant in pale rose color with diamonds clasping her fair throat and gleaming amid the dusky waves of her

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hair—gave Henrietta a friendly smile; said how pleased she was to see her and added:

"This is my cousin, Mr. Von Arnheim, Miss Fair"—presenting a good-looking young fellow about her own age—"he will take care of you. Carl, find Miss Fair a good place; tell her who's who and see that she has lots of partners for the dance."

"Count me one of them, please, Miss Fair," begged Danvers, her little hand in his for a moment before Carl, regarding his charge with much approval, led her away.

She was looking very pretty in her dainty white evening gown with a strand of pearls about her neck and an unwonted color in her cheeks. Mr. Jordansen gave her a look of fatherly pride as she and Carl slipped into some seats, half screened by a curtain, where the young man proceeded to make himself useful as well as very amusing. He knew everybody; told her who were the notables; helped jot down descriptions of costumes and kept a running fire of whispered comment which Henrietta would have thoroughly enjoyed if she could have kept her thoughts and glance from straying toward the beautiful mistress of the mansion and the lover bending his fair head to whisper in her ear.

When the curtain was drawn on the last pose, Carl took Henrietta upstairs and Miss Vinsen's maid showed her into Miss Vinsen's boudoir; asked if she could do anything more then rejoined the other maids, in the hall, where they were peeping at the company. Henrietta, settling herself in a big easy chair, began her task but had written only a few lines when a sound in the bedroom beyond startled her. Looking up, she saw in the mirror before her, a dark, rough-looking, black bearded man, with ragged hat drawn down over his brows, picking up something from the dressing table. She tried to slip out without attracting his attention but he saw her and, with a smothered oath, caught her as she reached the door. Her scream was half stifled by a blow from the butt of a revolver which, in the struggle, was discharged, the bullet entering the breast of the burglar. Immediately the room was filled with shocked and startled people. The man was dead and Henrietta only just alive. Miss Vinsen, with tears streaming down her cheeks and heedless of her rich gown, took the poor little head, with its blood matted curls, on her lap.

"Poor mamma," murmured the girl, faintly, "what will become of her?"

"I will care for her, my darling," promised Mr. Jordansen, kneeling beside her. "But, don't give up, dear child. Live for her and for us."

A shadowy smile flitted across her lips and they thought that she had ceased to breathe, but, once more, she opened her eyes, and with her whole heart in them, looked at Tom Danvers.

"Kiss me," she whispered. "She won't mind, just once," and, as he pressed his lips reverently to hers, sighed and passed away.

As the burglar was carried out, Mr. Jordansen saw his face.

"My God," he muttered, "it is George Warren! Her father!"

A CAT ON THE STAIRS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY AUBERTINE W. MOORE.

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DOROTHY Barbour had a great desire for an adventure. When she was bidden to the home of her forefathers to visit her mother's maiden sister, Miss Constance Pringle, who lived there alone with the household servants, she hoped that one might at last be hers.

The Pringle mansion was known as the Castle on the Heights, because of its palatial size and appearance and of its situation on a hill commanding a view of an exceedingly picturesque landscape. This ancestral home, scene of many adventures, would surely be an appropriate place for an adventure worth having.

But Dorothy did not feel very much like a heroine of romance or adventure, when she first set foot on the stairs leading from the lower hall to the drawing-room. There must have been a warp in the brain of the architect who planned them. A narrow passage off the extreme end of the broad hall in the center of the house led to the first flight, which could only gain a glimmer of light when the back-hall door was open.

On either side of the stairs there were balusters, and at the top of the narrow flight was a narrow landing. The second flight began a little to the left of the first and led upward between two walls. On the upper landing the drawing-room door opened.

As Dorothy was ushered upstairs, on her arrival, the dismal darkness appalled her. She screamed outright as she stumbled on something soft near the top. The drawing-room door was flung open and Aunt Constance appeared.

"My poor kitten," exclaimed the good lady, hastening forward and gathering up the furry ball against which Dorothy had stumbled. "And my dear Dorothy," she added, throwing her disengaged arm about the shrinking girl.

On the threshold of the large, high-ceiled drawing-room Dorothy was met by quite a family of cats and kittens. The young girl concealed her aversion to them as best she could on learning how fond her aunt was of them.

Cats and kittens were forgotten when Dorothy looked out of the window in front of her, and caught sight of the blue dancing waters of a charming lake. A rolling lawn, dotted by handsome trees led to it, and on the shore was an ornamental boat house which promised stores of pleasure.

She was not disappointed. The young people in the neighborhood had soon drawn her into all their sports, and Dorothy would thoroughly have enjoyed the days that followed but for those stairs and her Aunt Constance's pets. The entire house and especially the dark stairway seemed fairly to swarm with feline monsters.

One afternoon Dorothy returned from a boating expedition to find the mansion apparently deserted. She remembered that her aunt had spoken of driving and that there had been some talk of an outing among the servants.

To her astonishment the front door stood wide open. Usually the great brass knocker must be sounded before admission could be gained. The back door was closed. Darkness reigned supreme on the stairs. As Dorothy ascended, hideous possibilities suggested themselves to her.

Suddenly she heard something stir on the first landing. Pausing she listened. A stealthy cat-like footfall was plainly audible. Elastic though it was, it seemed heavier than that of an ordinary cat. It must be an uncommonly large animal. The next stair creaked as Dorothy put her foot on it, and the creature above sprang upward with lightning speed.

Dorothy was provoked with herself for feeling so alarmed. Gathering up her courage she resolved that a cat should not bar her out of the drawing-room. Having reached the first landing she drew from her pocket a match safe which, girl though she was, she always carried about with her, and struck a light.

A blood-curdling sound smote upon her ear. Dorothy staggered against the balluster protecting the outer side of the landing, while the match fell and was extinguished. What she heard was a hideous roar, followed by a long continued snarling growl. It was like a seething, bubbling cauldron of rage. Dorothy shivered with terror. Absolute helplessness overcame her.

She knew that the beast from which no barrier whatever separated her, was a creature far more to be dreaded than a cat. Her approach had goaded it to a frenzy that increased its strength in the same proportion that fright decreased hers. At any moment a monstrous, hairy mass might be precipitated against her, and cruel claws might tear her flesh.

Dorothy was in the midst of a thrilling adventure, but she was not in a condition to realize it. Not to be able to see in moments of supreme dread is horrible. Instinctively Dorothy struck another light. The same demoniacal roar as before woke the echoes of the deserted mansion. Although quivering like an aspen Dorothy clung to her match. Its flickering rays cast a glimmer on the upper landing. A sight was revealed that made Dorothy's flesh creep with horror.

Crouched against the far corner of the wall, the back arched, the hair bristling, the eyes like balls of fire, was an object resembling a black cat of gigantic proportions. It was a black panther. As in a dream, Dorothy remembered hearing of a circus, about a mile distant. It was there all the servants, except the coachman who was driving Aunt Constance, must have gone. Their excitement would account for the neglect of the front door. The panther had unquestionably escaped from the menagerie.

Dorothy remained pressed against the balluster. The only motion she made was to strike match after match, in view of keeping the dread foe in sight. Soon her safe would be empty. What should she then do? She dared not move. All at once, she became conscious of a faint step. A strong young voice, in a peculiar, purring tone, was heard saying:

"Keep still, you who are alone. I am coming."

Not until the new-comer had reached the first landing did Dorothy dare turn her head. In spite of the ghastly situation in which she found herself, her attention was at once riveted on the figure, with lighted lantern in hand, that approached her. It was that of a boy of about her own age—that is not more than sixteen—clad in the motley garb of a beast-tamer. He was a powerfully built lad, with the form of a gladiator and the face of an inspired hero. His cheeks were flushed, his dark eyes shone with wonderful brilliancy, and a wealth of curly hair tumbled over his noble forehead.

"The panther got away from us. I tracked him here. I saw you enter," said the youth, in the same soft, purring tones Dorothy had at first noticed.

"Take you the lantern," he continued, not varying the peculiar mode of speech, which is one of the beast-tamer's weapons. "But wait a moment," and he pushed a slide in front of the flame so that but a slender streak of light, sharp as a dagger, escaped from the lantern, which he gave Dorothy. "Aim the light directly at his eye," said the boy.

Dorothy did as she was bid. The object of the command was at once apparent. The panther closed his eyes as though hurt, and his roar gave place to a snarling moan. Prostrating himself on the landing so that the upper portion of his body touched the first step of the second flight, the young beast-tamer glided snake-like toward the panther.

In his left hand he grasped a huge piece of meat, which he held far in front of him. His right hand clutched a noose of leather and wire. His movements were accompanied by the monotonous, murmuring, gurgling sound heard from the first.

"Push back the slide," said the beast-tamer, as soon as his face was on a level with the upper landing. "Throw the full light above, and be on your guard when I begin to come down with him."

His eyes were fixed on the panther. The monster had stretched out his long neck, and was sniffing the air. Evidently he had scented the meat. Noiselessly the beast-tamer's right hand was drawing nearer and nearer the panther until it touched the beast's head.

Once more there rang out the deafening roar that had at first paralyzed Dorothy. This time it was more infuriated than before. Now the youth sprang to his feet, holding with outstretched arm a struggling palpitating load, suspended from a leather strap. Panting, with wide-open, glittering eyes, and exhibiting marvelous strength, the young beast-tamer looked like a hero of light who had overcome and was bearing away captive a demon of darkness.

"Give me plenty of light as you go down," said he to Dorothy. "Keep your distance."

Dorothy began the descent backwards, casting the lantern's glow on the boy's pathway. The panther dangling from the noose was wildly clawing the air. Soon it grew quiet, and the boy attempted to support it from behind with his left hand. He did not wish wholly to strangle this costly possession of his employers. Perhaps too, the weight was overtaxing even for his muscular arm. As he touched the panther's hide, the beast struck out violently with its right fore paw. A sharp cry escaped the boy's lips, sounding all the more piteous from the evident effort to suppress it.

"You are wounded!" exclaimed Dorothy.

"Go on," gasped the boy, hoarsely. "Go on—but quickly—quickly."

By this time the ground floor hall was reached, and through the open front door a keeper from the circus was seen. At the end of the long gravel walk was a menagerie cage on wheels, drawn by horses.

"Thank God!" fervently ejaculated the boy.

A crowd had assembled, and in the midst were the servants. There was a general scattering as the beast-tamer appeared with his burden.

This was soon deposited in the cage. As the keeper closed the door the young hero sank exhausted to the ground. In an instant he looked up, his lips white as marble, and murmured:

"Remove the noose. Pour water over him. He is not dead. And see to the cage door. I told you it was not safe."

The keeper to whom these words were addressed mumbled something to the effect that he had missed the panther, discovered its whereabouts and brought the cage forthwith. He took to himself the glory of the capture, and paid no heed to the young beast-tamer. But Dorothy saw that the boy had swooned away, and that the blood was flowing fast from his arm.

She promptly sent for water and for a doctor, and tied her handkerchief about the wound until help should come. As the keeper moved off with the cage Miss Constance Pringle appeared on the scene. Flinging herself into her aunt's arms Dorothy then gave way.

The situation was soon made clear to Miss Constance who felt that enough could not be done for the young hero who had rescued her niece from a horrible fate. She visited him in the hospital where he was carried as soon as he could be moved, and speedily discovered that by birth and breeding he was above the position in which circumstances had placed him.

On his recovery the good lady obtained for the grateful youth a subordinate place on the railroad, with a salary far beyond what he was earning in his hazardous calling. It was a position that afforded ample opportunity for advancement, and Miss Constance and Dorothy had the satisfaction of seeing the former beast-tamer work his way to a post of trust.

When the war with Spain broke out the youth—then nineteen—enlisted in the navy. After peace was declared Miss Constance was the recipient of a Spanish flag, captured by her protege from a lighthouse near Santiago. He sent her, he wrote, his first prize, in token of his undying gratitude to her for lifting him out of a hateful life.

So Dorothy had her adventure and she will always watch with interest the career of its hero.

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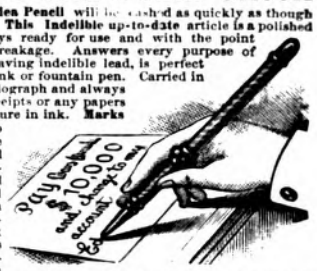
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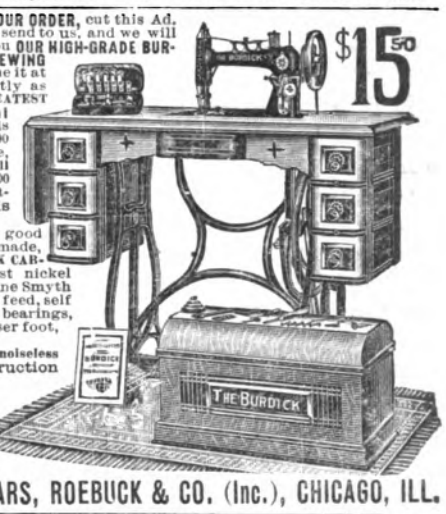
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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The Mayor of the greatest city in the world is a most important person with almost the state and circumstance of a European monarch. He holds his office for one year and during that time has the rank and precedence of an English earl. The present Lord Mayor is Sir John Moore, who was installed in his office in November. In 1894, he was Sheriff of London and at the expiration of his term in that year the honor of knighthood was conferred on him. He comes of a sturdy old English family of the Lancashire town of Stockport. Here his father was closely identified with the great institution, The Stockport Sunday School, which is the largest and most perfect of its kind in the world. The Lord Mayor is an active business man who has made himself widely known through his sustained fight against food adulteration. He is a merchant prince but has also a retail business in tea and coffee. He has several shops and one may purchase from the Lord Mayor a quarter of a pound of tea or a thousand chests of a hundred pounds each. His principal shop is in King William's street and is like the queer old places which the pen of Dickens has made famous. The window is filled with tea chests and tea canisters. The dingy shop behind is filled by a long counter and a line of salesmen busy weighing out tea. In a small office back of this busy scene sits the man with care-worn face who is busy with the civic duties of the old city of London. Sir John is a widower. His only daughter, Mrs. King Farlow will discharge the onerous social duties that devolve upon a Lady Mayoress. There are eight sons in the Moore family. The office of Lord Mayor is a very difficult one to fill but Sir John Moore is more the type of an old time Mayor than any one who has filled the chair in recent years.

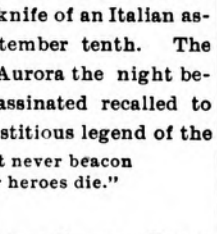
When we officially acquire the Philippines one of our nearest neighbors will be the Mikado Mutsuhito. Thus the latest civilization in the world will extend its power side by side with the oldest—for the oldest political dynasty in the world is that of Japan, the Emperor being the one hundred and twenty-first of his line. The present Emperor, whose name means "gentleman," was born in 1852, at about the time that Perry opened the way for our first treaty with the Japanese. He was born in the sacred city of Kioto, the second son of the Emperor Komei. His mother's family had for years furnished the leading statesmen of Japan. The young "Son of Heaven" was brought up in all the fantastic luxury and time-honored observances of ancient Japan. In 1860 he was declared heir to the throne and in that time he has seen Japan leap from the Orient to the Occident in its ideas of government and political economy. To-day his subjects are burning with restless patriotism. Enterprising, ambitious, progressive, they hope to make the island empire one of the first powers of the world. The united empire of Japan extends from the northern fogs to the tropics and comprises the Loo-Choo islands, once claimed by China, the Bonin Archipelago, Formosa and the Pescadores, ceded from China, and the Kurile islands. In 1867 Mutsuhito ascended the throne. The official designation of his reign was the word Meiji, which means "enlightened peace or civilization." A new government was formed and the Mikado came from behind the screen and in person attended the meetings of the new council. By the new constitution it was agreed that a Diet should be convoked, that the actions of the new government should be decided by public opinion, that the old customs of seclusion should be abolished and that educated and trained men from other nations should be invited to come to Japan. These sweeping reforms were gradually made although it was not for twenty-one years that the promise of a representative government was fulfilled. The Constitution of Japan was promulgated in 1889 and to-day the government follows very closely the model of Great Britain. The Emperor, reared in all the seclusion and tradition of the old regime, is the leading spirit in the new. Forty-six years of age, in sound mental and physical condition, with strong common sense and a spirit devoted to his people's welfare, Mikado Mutsuhito is the ruler of an enlightened people. Monogamy is not yet an institution in Japan although the increased sense of moral responsibility among the Japanese must bring the condition in time. The Empress Haruko is childless. Ten of the Emperor's children have lived. The Prince Imperial Yoshito is the third son of the Emperor, his mother being Yanagiwara Aiko. He was proclaimed heir to the throne in 1887.

Maud Powell is one of the great women violinists of the world. She is an American girl whose home was in Aurora, Ill. After hearing Camillo Urso play she resolved to master the violin. She studied four years in Chicago and then came some years of successful study in Leipzig. From there she went to Paris, where she succeeded in entering the class of the great master, Dancla. Eighty pupils applied and but twelve could be accepted. Maud Powell was unanimously given first place. Two years of study and she made her London debut to be at once given a foremost place. Miss Powell, after a successful season in America has returned to Europe where she will spend two more years in study.



Two great queens have passed from the fierce light that beats upon a throne during the last year. Their characters furnished as marked a contrast as did their different fates. The story of Empress Elizabeth of Austria is one of romance and tragedy while that of Queen Louise of Denmark is the story of a quiet, domestic German life. Queen Louise was born in 1817 and was nearing her eighty-second birthday at the time of her death. She was the daughter of a petty German Prince, the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel. In 1841 she married the fourth son of another German duke. It was not an ambitious marriage but rather one of love. The two young people were often in severe financial difficulties in spite of their modest manner of living. In 1863 by a turn of Fortune's wheel the penniless German duke became the almost equally penniless King of Denmark with the title of Christian IX. Six children were born of the marriage and Queen Louise was literally mother-in-law to half the crowned heads of Europe. Princess Marie Dagmar married Alexander III. the late Czar of Russia, and is now Empress Dowager of that great empire. Alexandra "Sea King's daughter from over the sea" is the much beloved Princess of Wales, some day to be Queen of England. The third son is George I. of Greece, having been elected to that throne by the people of Greece. Another son, the Crown Prince of Denmark will succeed his father on the throne. All in all, Queen Louise had had a most pleasant and successful life journey. She was literally a mother of queens. Gifted to an unusual degree with good, plain every day commonsense, simple yet dignified, her influence was wide spread and always for good. Her influence with the late Czar of Russia was known to be great and many affairs of state were discussed at the family gatherings in Denmark. The death of Queen Louise throws half of Europe into mourning as sincere as it is respectful.

Mrs. Virginia Reynolds is a young American woman who has been elected to membership in the Society of Fine Art of France as the result of one exhibition of her work. This exhibition was her first public one and consisted of a case of fine miniatures shown in 1897 at the Champs de Mars Salon. The unprecedented honor of an immediate election to the Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts followed this demonstration of the unusual talent of the young American woman. This seemed to be success at one bound, but years and years of painstaking work preceded the success. Mrs. Reynolds was born in Chicago, but on the death of her father moved with her mother into a small Illinois town. Her mother was a musician and Mrs. Reynolds was taught to play almost before she could read. At the age of thirteen she was playing the church organ and copying portraits from photographs. She studied for a year in the Chicago Art Institute and then with her mother went abroad to study music and painting. Over practice brought on a serious trouble with the muscles of the hand and Mrs. Reynolds was forced to give up her music. Then came her marriage and it was at her husband's suggestion that she turned her attention to the delicate art of miniature painting. She has made a great success as a teacher of this art. Eleven from her class of thirteen girls succeeded in having miniatures accepted at the Paris Salon. Last summer in Holland Mrs. Reynolds worked out of doors selecting the peasants as her models. Mrs. Reynolds is now in America where she will paint many miniatures of leading society women.



The late Empress of Austria has been one of the most romantic figures among the crowned heads of Europe. January first finds the Austrian Court still in mourning for its Empress, although for years she had been rarely seen at any court functions. Empress Elizabeth was one of the most celebrated beauties of her time, but she had refused to allow any picture of her to be made during the later years of her life so it is as she stirred the fancy of an older generation that we show her to the readers of COMFORT. Elizabeth Amelia Eugenie was the daughter of Duke Maximilian of Bavaria and the most beautiful princess in Christendom. To the petty court of her father came her cousin Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, as a suitor for the hand of her elder sister. He saw the young Princess Elizabeth, fell deeply in love with her and would have no other for his bride and Empress. "It is too good to be true, I am such an insignificant little thing" said Elizabeth when the news was conveyed to her. Eight months later she became Empress of Austria. Her life at the Court of Vienna was not altogether a happy one even in her young days. A strong court faction was formed against the young Bavarian Princess. Three children, two daughters and a son were born to her. The self-inflicted death of the Crown Prince Rudolph was one of the many dramatic tragedies that have filled her years with sorrow and trouble. Her later years were passed in wandering over Europe and in living her life as best pleased her until the tragic end came from the knife of an Italian assassin at Geneva on September tenth. The wonderful display of the Aurora the night before the Empress was assassinated recalled to many minds the old superstitious legend of the

"Fearful lights that never beacon
Save when kings or heroes die."



Jotura Komura, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States is an exponent of the liberal culture that marks a new Japan. A graduate of the best universities of the island empire, he came to the United States in 1875 and entered Harvard. He graduated from that university in 1880. His five years' residence in America has made him thoroughly conversant with the affairs of this great nation. For the past eighteen years he has been closely identified with the diplomatic service of Japan. He was minister to China at the outbreak of the Chinese-Japanese war. When the Emperor chose him to succeed Toru Hoshi as Minister to the United States he was serving as assistant secretary of state. He has all the qualifications for a markedly successful service. He is highly educated, no stranger to the ideas, manners and customs of this country, and thoroughly identified with the government and thought of new Japan. Personally he is calm, dignified and self-contained. He unites the calm of the Orient with the quick thought of the average Yankee.



Sir Julian Pauncefote, G. C. B., G. C. M. G., Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of her British Majesty to the United States, is a typical Britisher of whom American people are decidedly fond. He has quietly won his way to a general liking during the ten years that he has represented Great Britain in this country. He came when we were not feeling particularly friendly to his country but during three administrations he has demonstrated his diplomatic ability. This ability has been gained by the slow steps by which England trains her men for service. Sir Julian began diplomatic life as the Secretary to the Secretary of State for the colonies. Then followed several years of practice as a lawyer in Hong Kong and then eight years as Attorney General of that Chinese Metropolis. In 1874, he was made Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands and in that same year he was knighted. Then he was called back to England as assistant under Secretary of Foreign Affairs. From that time promotion was rapid and honor after honor was heaped upon him. When we provided by law to raise our ministers to the rank of ambassadors, Great Britain was the first nation to take advantage of the change and Sir Julian, who was already Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, was raised to the rank of Ambassador. In 1894, he was made a Privy Councillor and in 1897 he received the Jubilee Medal. Sir Julian Pauncefote is a typical Englishman and his face bears a family resemblance to the John Bull of the cartoonist. He has personally managed most of the correspondence on the Behring Sea question and on arbitration, and it is his great regret that the principle of arbitration was not accepted by the United States and Great Britain. The British Embassy in Washington is the property of the British Government and bears the royal arms over its entrance. Sir Julian is fond of music and of the theater and like all Englishmen he is devoted to out-of-door sports. There have been rumors of his recall and it is but fair to say that when that event does take place it will be regretted by the nation at large.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
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3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
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Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

George H. Jordan,	$3.00
F. E. Halbert,	2.50
Mary E. Martin,	2.00
M. C.	1.50
C. S.	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

And now we are at the opening of another year. 1898, with its joys and its sorrows, its horrors of war, and the sickness and suffering attendant thereon, are all things of the past, and the pages of the new year—of the last year of the century—lie before us, fair and spotless. What shall be their record? How will they appear as we turn them backward for examination when 1900 comes peeping in upon us? Written all over they *must* be, with good deeds or bad; with efforts of helpfulness to others; of kind words fitly spoken; with honesty, sobriety, manliness and womanliness; or with the reverse. Which shall it be?

Our first letter this month is from Alabama, and those of us who are familiar with the "Sunny South" will recognize the truthfulness of this description of the colored dwellers there. Our correspondent says:



FORMING as they do a large part of the population in many of the Southern States it may be of interest to note a few of the traits and peculiarities of the colored people as found at the present time. One of the most noticeable traits is their cheerful and happy disposition. At work or play they are always in the singing mood. Given enough to satisfy to-day's wants they do not worry themselves about to-morrow. They have no ambition to become property owners. Land suitable for cultivation is cheap and can be bought on favorable terms, building material is not high, and in this climate it does not require any large outlay to secure comfortable and tidy homes, and yet we find them, with few exceptions, squatters on some wild tract of land, living in dilapidated cabins that hardly afford them shelter from the storm. Another trait that attracts attention is their devotion and attendance on public worship and prayer meeting. Every Sabbath day they fill their little churches, and it is often well toward midnight before they finish up the services. They are as well dressed and well behaved as any similar gathering of the white folks. On a week day evening the negro and his family will walk for miles through the woods to attend prayer meeting, no matter how dark and stormy the night. The service consists mainly of singing and prayer. The singing is very enthusiastic and sometimes quite melodious. The precepts and admonitions they receive from their pastors and teachers are all of that character that should lead them to a higher and better way of living. Now we should expect some good results from all this and no doubt it has a restraining influence, but some of these people cannot be made to understand that the ten commandments apply to them in any way. The Psalmist who said in his haste that 'all men are liars,' would not have qualified his assertion very much if he had been intimate with these people. Another trait that is observed in the colored people is their politeness and courtesy to every one, and more especially among themselves. Their use of the English language in conversation is often amusing. They appear to select the longest and most unthought-of words to express their meaning, and often they get sadly mixed up.

"One of the bright sayings of Mark Twain that 'a cauliflower is a cabbage with a college education,' might be applied to the negro race. It is evident, however, that it will require more than one generation of education and culture to transform them into intelligent and progressive citizens. The vices and irregularities acquired by the race during long years of servitude still cling to them. But there are influences at work, bidding them to 'Leave their low-vaulted past,' and giving them nobler views and higher aims in life. There are educated and talented young colored men scattered through the South who are making it their life work to improve their race and fit them better to perform their duties as citizens."

GEO. H. JORDAN, Citronelle, Ala.

Now here is a letter from Annette Rosamond Muller, of South Amboy, N. J.; a very pleasant letter it is too, full of praises of our brave soldier boys in the late war with Spain, but it is crowded out, to my great regret.

Our next letter is upon the old Muller House in New York State. I wonder, by the way, if our cousin Anuette Muller claims relationship there.

"On the top of a high hill, about two and a half miles west of Georgetown, N. Y., stands an old house known as the 'Muller House.' It was built nearly a hundred years ago, by a wealthy Frenchman named Muller, who was obliged to fly from France for political reasons. On coming to this country he obtained a large tract of land from the Indians, a part of which is now known as the 'Muller farm.' This house, which is built of hewn black cherry timbers, is the only building now remaining of those erected by Muller, and is still in a good state of preservation. The timbers of which it is made are each twelve inches thick and eleven feet in length. They are placed upright, side by side, and dovetailed closely together, thus forming a solid wall. This was lathed and plastered within, and most carefully and elaborately finished. There were seven open fireplaces in the house, all finished in black marble. The house was beautifully finished and furnished with the richest of furniture in mahogany and other costly woods. But the most peculiar thing about it is that the cellar walls are seven feet thick. It is supposed that there is a secret passage entirely around the house within these cellar walls, but no one has ever been able to find the entrance to it.

"The surrounding grounds still show traces of their former beauty. The trout ponds and deer parks here once had no equal in the State. In the park are still to be seen immense maple trees growing in fantastic shapes, showing that they had once received great care and training. In the center of the park is a large open space across which the deer were driven while the hunters waited to get a shot at them. Muller never allowed his deer to be shot unless they were running across this opening.

"A little back of the house and within the woods is a swamp where grow a great variety of wild flowers, some of which are so rare as to be found nowhere else in the state.

"Not a member of the Muller family now remains here, and it is not known what became of them. Muller, himself, went back to France, leaving his wife and children in New York, and never sent for them. It is said that the wife resumed her maiden name, both for herself and her children, and hence the name of Muller became obliterated."

F. E. HALBERT, Cortland, N. Y.

Alice Heffenfinges must try again. This letter which she sends me is very pleasant, but I am sorry to say that I cannot give it a prize. Thank you for it, all the same, my dear.

George Johnson, with his account of a walnutting party, carries me back to my own youthful frolics, but his letter is far too long, and not of sufficient interest to all the cousins for me to publish. Send me a short one, George, on some really interesting subject, and see how quickly I will use it.

Now we have an account of a most curious amphibious animal, called the mud fish.

"A very curious link between fish and reptile, is the creature known as the mud fish. Although he partakes of the characteristics of both animals, he is classified as a fish on account of his scaly covering and rudimentary fins, which are in reality more like feet than fins, as they are used both to support the fish and direct his movements. Ordinarily sluggish, he can be very swift when occasion requires; moving rapidly backward and forward by means of his tail.

"In form, this strange fellow is long and narrow, mixed olive green and brown in color—a little lighter in some places—with dark irregular spots near the tail. There seems to be no trace of an ear, and the eyes are small and flat to the head, with a golden iris. He breathes both by lungs and gills, and comes to the surface of the water for air occasionally. During the eight months of the dry season in the tropical countries where the mud fish lives he lies at the bottom of deep morasses and half dried rivers, rolled in a kind of mud cocoon, in a state of torpidity. He leaves a hole at one end of the cocoon through which to breathe. Upon emerging from his cocoon, the animal is simply ravenous; and as he is a great fighter when aroused he will frequently attack, and even eat up a companion. Under ordinary circumstances his diet consists of small frogs, fish, worms, and vegetable matter.

"In the river Amazon in Brazil, where the mud fish was first discovered, he grows sometimes three feet long, but in other localities he only averages about two feet.

"Rice fields, which are in a quivering state of jellylike mud during the greater part of the year, contain quantities of mud fish, which at the end of the dry season the natives dig up and eat as a great delicacy.

"The mud fish is somo times called the 'Paradox,' and is considered by scientific men to be the nearest approach known to a perfectly amphibious animal. Some specimens have been taken to Europe to raise, but with very little success."

MARY E. MARTIN, New York.

Mrs. George C. Goodyear, of Saginaw, Michigan, sends me a very interesting account of the reception tendered to the returning soldiers of Saginaw in September last, but it reaches me far too late for use.

Here is a letter from North Carolina, but election riots do not seem to disturb the busy life of *this* little place.

"Our beautiful little village, Faith, is situated six miles from the county-seat of Rowan County, on the granite belt, and it is very interesting to watch the men at work in the granite quarries, some drilling by hand, others by steam drills; here is a group of men making millstones, there others cutting curbing for street purposes, and still further on they are engaged in making paving blocks and sills for windows and doors; while near us men are feeding a large and excessively noisy stone crusher, which grinds up the granite as if it were loaves of bread, or something equally soft. One hundred car-loads of granite curbing are frequently shipped at one time from here to Raleigh.

"We have in our yard a beautiful grove which is often visited by Sunday School picnics and religious bodies needing a place for meetings. A large gospel tent has lately been erected there, and for a week a revival meeting has been going on in it. Crowds of people come from far and near both to these meetings and to the frequent picnics that come here, and all seem to enjoy their visit."

MRS. CHARLOTTE E. WYATT, Faith, N. C.

Jennie Purviance, of Perrysville, Ark., sends me a cheering word of appreciation of our page which is very welcome; she also gives me a half promise of a letter later, on some subject of interest. I am sorry not to publish her letter to shut-ins, on the subject of healing, but I receive so many letters of that kind that my space would be filled with them were I to give them room; so, as this is not a "Shut-in" page, I am obliged to refuse them all.

By the way, will my nephews and nieces please remember that, as this page is "made up" at least two months before it is published, it is therefore necessary that matters intended for any particular issue should be in my hands three months before it is to come out.

Now we have another bit of Virginia scenery laid before us. Truly, this proud old state is rich in itself aside from the remarkable men whom she has sent out into the world.

"Fifteen miles east of Lynchburg, Va., is a rock on the James river called Holcomb's Rock. It is one hundred and fifty feet high, and twenty-five feet in width. On the top it is composed of two large rocks and many small ones, and at the bottom it is at least sixty feet from the river; on top there is space of land one hundred yards long and four yards wide, that leads right on the rock. You can ride a horse so as to jump from the horse on the rock. It is a very pleasant place to visit on a summer day; there are several springs and many shady trees around it. Among the trees that grow around it are spruce, pine and others. Most of the rock is covered with moss and around the edge there are many pretty wild flowers. It was a very famous place in ancient times, and is now. I have heard that it derived its name from an old slave man named Holcomb, who jumped over it."

ALMA E. HARVEY, Clifford, Va.

Here is a new Virginia cousin whom we are glad to welcome among us. He gives us a pleasant description of his home surroundings.

"I am just becoming a reader of COMFORT and would like to be admitted to your social circle. Our valley is known as 'Falling Spring Valley,' and derived its name from a large stream of water which falls over a precipice one hundred and ninety feet high. The big cliffs at these falls are grand. The rocks look as if they had been cut and built one upon another. Another picturesque spot is the 'Cress Lakes' where cress is gathered all winter and shipped to northern markets. These lakes are beautiful in winter when the earth is hidden by snow. Their water is warm, and ice was never known to form on them, though it is bitterly cold here. Our valley is somewhat hilly, but rich and fertile. It is about three miles wide and eighteen long, situated in the northwestern part of Virginia. The celebrated 'Hot Springs,' one of the most beautiful summer resorts in the State, are here. The 'Natural Well,' three and a half miles from Falling Springs, is a curiosity. I live on a farm one and a half miles from Falling Springs and the lovely cascades."

S. E. ROBINSON, Savannah, Va.

Now let us visit Luray Cave with another Virginia cousin.

"The Luray Cavern is nestled among the hills of Page County, Virginia. In the year of 1878 Mr. B. G. Stebbins of Luray wished to explore an old cave which was known to have existed there for years immemorial, and invited two friends to accompany him. They would not consent to this, but were willing to go in search of a new cave. So they went roaming over the hills for several weeks, without any result. One day they crossed the hill where the old cave was situated, and a short distance from its mouth they came upon a hole filled with bushes, weeds and stones, from whence issued a cool current of air. After much labor in clearing out the place one of the men was let down into the hole by a rope and proceeded some distance on foot until stopped by water.

"This was the discovery of the marvelous Luray cave, which has since been gradually revealed. Luray is now considered one of the most beautiful caverns in the world. Come into it with me and behold its wonders for yourselves. After a considerable descent we enter an immense room, and passing through it we come to the Vegetable Garden, so called from the strong resemblance of the



THE LURAY CAVERN.

rock formations within it to vegetables. Then comes the theatre and the gallery, and, passing over Muddy lake on a plank walk, we reach the Fish Market; then on to Pluto's Chasm, the depth of whose black abyss has never been ascertained. Then there is the Bridge of Sighs, Titania's Veil, and Diana's Baths; also the Wet Blanket, which hangs high and always dripping water. The massive columns here and there are grand and imposing, notably so the Fallen Column. The Cathedral is a study in itself; its lofty dome and Gothic arches are an inspiration. The immense organ in one corner is another wonder, and when the guide strikes the pipes beautiful, deep, musical sounds reach the ear. Adjoining the organ are the chimes, the sweetest ever heard. Passing through the Bridal Chamber we enter the Giants' Hall and the Ballroom. A beautiful white formation in the last named room shows the symmetrical figure of a young woman which is called Cinderella leaving the ball-room. Very near, hanging against the wall, is a lady's riding whip. Close by is the Cemetery, and beyond that the Fowl Market, where the formations bear a striking resemblance to fowls.

"Beautiful, crystal springs and lakes dot the cave here and there, while the limestone formations among which they are, assume such a variety of forms and coloring that one might easily imagine himself in a forest with tall trees, shrubbery, fallen logs and sparkling, limpid water everywhere about."

M. C.

A letter from our Montreal cousin shows us a pathetic bit of life in a convalescent Home for children. She says:

"Let me tell your readers about a small convalescent Home, situated on the banks of the St. Lawrence river. Eighteen is the greatest number that can be accommodated here at once, but as only non-contagious diseases are allowed there is rarely the full number here in winter; but in summer the beds are always full, and it is gratifying to see the color come into the pale, pinched faces of poor sickly little children, and to watch how, after a few days, they begin to run about and enjoy themselves.

"Let me tell you about a few of these little patients. E. M. was a dear little boy of three years, his mother dead, and his father a stoker in some large factory. Having no one to look after his boy the father took him with him to the factory. From the bad, confined atmosphere the poor child soon became ill, and so drifted into our Home. He was white as wax the day he was carried in and laid on his little cot, but fresh air, regular food and proper care soon told, and E. became the pet of the Home. Another boy had never slept in a properly made bed, and the poor fellow undressed and lay on the outside, gathering up the quilt as a covering. A little French boy cried when he first saw the bath, for he was afraid of being drowned in it. Another was a very funny little fellow, very careful of his clothes, and very much afraid that when taken away to the wash they would never be brought back again. One day he sat nearly an hour watching the clean clothes on the line for fear that some one would take away his stockings which he recognized hanging there."

M. S. B., Montreal, Canada.

Below are extracts from letters written home last winter by a Texas boy who joined the army of seekers for gold in the far off land of Alaska. His sister sent them to us, thinking we would find them of interest.

"I sailed from Seattle, February, 1898, on the steamer Queen. We arrived at Victoria, B. C., on the 20th, and after two days there we began our trip on the ocean. We made one or two stops before reaching Juneau, but the weather was so cold that I did not venture ashore, the mercury standing at thirty degrees below zero. The scenery we passed was romantic and beautiful. Mountains covered with snow, huge icebergs and glaciers along the coast on one side of us and the deep blue sea on the other.

"Juneau, Alaska, is an old Esquimaux village and I was much interested in watching the Esquimaux with their dogs and reindeer pulling their sleds. It is too cold for cattle and horses here as they have snow and ice the year round, and in winter the days are only a few hours long. Our voyage ended at Skaguay and when I saw all the snow and ice I began to wish I were at home.

"Skaguay is situated in a deep canyon between two hills eight or ten thousand feet high. The sun only shines two hours a day now and I am told that in summer it is dark only two hours. Skaguay is fifteen months old and has a population of eight



JUNEAU, ALASKA.

thousand and very nearly half live in tents, as all the lumber used must be shipped from the United States.

"How I long to see dear old Texas again! To hear the birds singing and see flowers blooming instead of the bleak snow-covered mountains. The only timber here is the birch and cotton-wood and not much of either. Prices are very high and wages are good but there are more people here than there is work."

And now my space is filled, so with sincere wishes for a happy New Year to you all I will say good-by until next month.

AUNT MINERVA.

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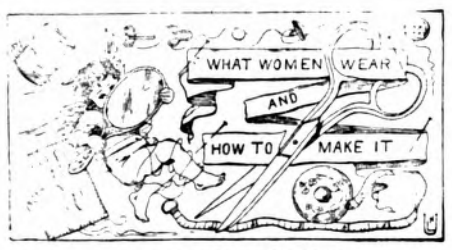
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ADAME La Mode is taking one of her much needed holidays, leaving me, as her faithful chronicler, somewhat at a loss for startling news. Still, having my COMFORT readers constantly in mind, and my eyes and ears always open for the noting of trifles light as air, but in the end important, I have enough news to keep mi lady employed and interested until my next budget, when things will have adjusted themselves more certainly, as far as modes go.

So it is that I can confide in you that among new goods are exquisite dress materials in lighter stuffs, where endless encircling tucks are simulated by interwoven lines of satin or silk, or a silk and wool mixture looking like braid. Apropos of which statement, it may be well to remark that all the stripes and tucks will be arranged to go round, and not down the skirt, though, perhaps, it is hardly kind to make short and stout folks unhappy in anticipation, for the reality will be bad enough when it arrives; however, there are always plain materials for them to fall back on.

Lace is as lavishly used as ever, both for the purpose of trimming and for the making of entire gowns, while perhaps the most notable innovation in the line of smart mid-winter costumes for dressy functions is the lace bodice having basques reaching almost to the knees and curving upward in a manner which has by this time become a familiar sight, inasmuch as it has distinguished all the fashionable capes and wraps of the past few months. A fetching new costume carrying out this idea has its skirt built of the finest and most supple cloth, in a tender shade of grey, the skirt distinguished by a deep flounce, which, instead of sweeping upwards at the back, as was the habit of the flounce for so long, has its highest point in the front, and then curves downward till, at the back, it is only about five inches deep. The effect is curious and is apt at first to be pronounced unbecoming, but it is really a most graceful arrangement and a most decided improvement.

This particular flounce of which I speak is arranged in deep pleats, opening outwards at the hem, an idea which is repeated in the rounded basques of the lace bodice. In fact the coat is all softly pleated, and held in at the waist by a folded band of white satin, which passes underneath the bordering pleats in the front, leaving them to hang loosely in something of fichu fashion from the pleated collar which falls over the shoulders. The concluding items of a vest and cravat of white mousseline de soie go to make up a distinctly novel dress. Smarter still is another gown, where the skirt of Parma mauve cloth has a curved flounce in white cloth, where many rows of gathered satin ribbon, in a delicate mauve coloring, are arranged in a particularly clever fashion. They appear again to decorate the open-fronted coat of white cloth, which has long, plain basques, with rounded fronts outlined with a double frill of mauve mousseline de soie. Then there are revers of white satin, edged with soft frills, and a vest of white lawn and lace crossed by two bands and rosettes of



THE UP-TO-DATE NEWMARKET.

black velvet ribbon, while black velvet at the waist and a rosette to finish the high collar make a distinctly chic contrast to the delicate coloring of the gown. This style of long basque with its upward curve in front is becoming and not likely to make one's figure look short or stumpy; still there is some danger for those at all inclined to stoutness, unless they are tall. All such will be wise to pin their affections to another new style, where bodice and skirt open with a scalloped edge, piped with velvet, over a vest and petticoat, where tiny pleats are arranged to form a series of V's. The Princess effect is broken by a narrow band of velvet at the waist finished by long sash ends, and there is a collar to match, which, however, is so narrow that it does not disguise the unrelieved tightness of the tucked sleeves. It is, on the whole, a graceful gown, and the continued lines of bodice and skirt give length to the figure.

The winter season has formally installed the Newmarket as a feature not to be overlooked by the woman who aims to be considered well-dressed. But it is an idealized garment, with little resemblance to the shapeless Newmarket of old. We have secured a sketch of an up-to-date garment, embodying all the new points, which consist chiefly of the circular flounce beginning with the revers and encircling the entire skirt, growing deeper and fuller at the back. The material is a soft, rich shade of tan Melton, with collar and cuff facings of black velvet. At the back, heading the two enormous pleats, are big velvet-covered buttons. Stitched straps are the decoration. This same style of coat is employed for evening and the opera, the back lengthening into an ample train and the entire thing fitted a trifle looser than for street wear.

And now, here is a frock which I am persuaded should be of practical use to you at the moment, being simple, yet sufficiently dressy for all occasions. The material is one of the fine, soft cloths in a beautiful shade of grey (grey you will observe is ultra-smart), the skirt nicely cut but perfectly devoid of trimming. The bodice has a jaunty little basque, shorter at the sides than at the back or front, and an arrangement of velvet ribbon running over the shoulders which is most becoming to the fig-



OF SOFT GREY CLOTH.

ure. The velvet is repeated at the shoulder, outlining the tiny cap of the sleeve, and at the waist where a cluster of handsome buttons in cut steel hold it in place. The guimpe is of yellow string lace over white satin, the tiny collar points and cuffs being of the same stuff. The vest is the goods in rather broad tucks.

For evening wear there are all sorts of dainty bodices, one of which I have chosen, as being among the smartest. The material is yellow crepe de chine over orange satin, the frills embroidered with orange and picked out with tiny jet sequins. Shirred bands decorate sleeves and waist alike.

Grey castor gloves are among the season's novelties and are the correct hand-covering of the moment. Pearl grey suede have superseded white gloves for smart functions. Elastic belts of jet, mock jewels, or cut steels are both becoming and smart. They may be had to match any costume.

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Schools have been established by the British government in India, for the instruction in reading, writing and manners of apes, to judge of their capabilities; one school in Bombay reports that the chances seem good to make reputable beings out of the Simian stock.



THE preservation of cut flowers is worth a little study, and the following method will be found a very good one. Before removing the flowers from the box, sprinkle them thoroughly with fresh, cold water; then make a strong soap-suds and put into a large vase and stand the flowers in it. Each morning the flowers must be taken out of the suds, their stems clipped, and laid sideways in clear, cool water. Sprinkle with fresh water and return to the suds. Change the suds every three days and at the end of three weeks compare the flowers with those a day or two old which have been crammed into a vase in the usual way, and you will prefer your own. The strong soap-suds take the place of roots.

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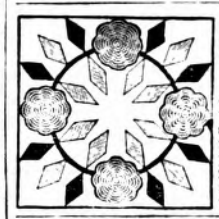
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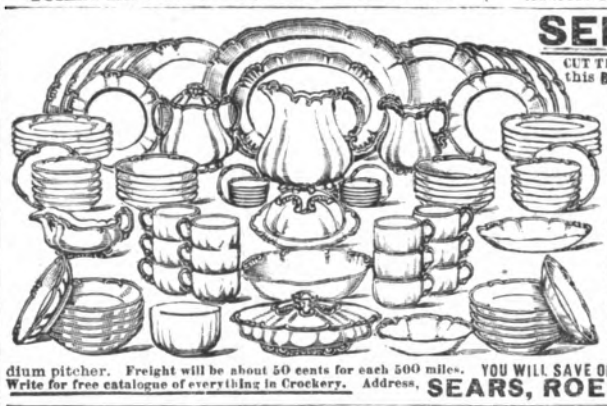
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A Pig Hunt in the Dark.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



I SLEEP soundly, but how am I to convey to any one the smallest end of a notion *how* soundly? The concentrated slumber of an army of tops would be wakefulness itself compared to the deep sleep I go in for. I scorn exaggeration, and merely mention my somnolent powers to enable my readers to realize, at least faintly, what that noise must have been which woke me as I lay, one wet night, snugly unconscious of all sublunary matters beneath the roof of my bungalow in Malaya. "What the duce is up?" I exclaim, as struggling into wakefulness, I observe my friend H, hastily putting on his nether garments by the light of a tallow dip, stuck with a graceful slant into the neck of a black bottle.

"Pigs; that's all," is his laconic reply. "Come, jump up, old man; we'll have fresh pork for breakfast, or my name isn't what it is."

Meanwhile the din outside the window continues with unabated fury, and I am by this time sufficiently awake to know that it is the aggregate product of manifold canine throats possessing vocal powers of Pandemoniacal variety of expression.

Besides ourselves there were two other inmates of the bungalow on this night, viz; our regular servant, an excitable but trustworthy Hibernian, and a Malay whom we employed now and then to do odd jobs about the place. The head of the latter now appeared at our door, and ejaculating, "Porker, peeg!" immediately disappeared again. On rushing into the next room, we found Dennis, the aforesaid Hibernian, lighting up our great perforated tin lantern, his dark eyes gleaming with delight and excitement.

"What are you going to do with the lantern, Dennis?" asks H., who rightly thinks that in the pig hunt a lantern will be more picturesque than useful.

"Faix, sorr," says Dennis, with a grin, "Amn't I goin' to light the gintleman that's outside this teemin' night into our bungalow. Daggo's gone to keep his honor in sight."

"Daggo" is the cognomen which Dennis bestowed on the Malay, and one which the latter at first strongly resented; but, overcome at last by Dennis's good-humored persistency, he had come to answer to it, under protest as it were, and sullenly exercising his right to repudiate the name on those arbitrary occasions whensoever his dignity might deem it necessary.

Whilst H. and I had been drawing on our boots, we had heard a violent scuffle in the verandah, then a fierce grunt, a rush, a dismal howl, and then the noise of the dogs had died away over the hill in front of the house. It is a stormy night; the rain had ceased, and the wind has got up and is driving thick masses of clouds across the sky, rendering the waning moon almost useless to us. H., as the best marksman, is armed with our only rifle; I carry a light American axe; and Dennis, over and above the lantern, has armed himself with an instrument something like a stout reaping-hook, with a long, straight handle. Of course, in our belts are stuck the sheath-knives we always carry, and thus accoutred, we go slipping and splashing down the slope on which our residence is situated, across the small gully at the bottom, and are pushing our way through the wet grass, up the hill on the other side, beyond which we can hear the dogs giving tongue as wildly as ever, when we are suddenly aware, by "the straggling moon-beans' misty light," of a gesticulating apparition which bears swiftly down upon us. It is "Daggo," who, with rapid and excited gestures, describes the position of the enemy, intimating that he is very large and likely to prove dangerous, and generally recommending caution in our plan of attack. Here we are all agreed, for we have long since acquired that deferential respect for the wild boar that every one does who has had anything to do with the hunting of him. When Daggo, therefore, silently signs for us to follow him, with the confident air of a man who has a defined plan in his head, we immediately accept his guidance. The natives glide away to the left, closely followed by H. with the rifle; I came next and Dennis brings up in the rear with his cherished lantern.



A CHANCE OF GETTING A BLOW AT THE ENEMY.

The boar, appears, is sullenly standing bay beside a waterhole in the next gully, protected on his right flank and rear by a tangled thicket, and a kind of thorny bramble. This thicket, though it certainly enabled his porcine majesty to bid defiance to the dogs, was the very thing that Daggo had perceived to be the weakness of his position. Numerous cattle tracks lead down to the waterhole, and guided unerringly by the Malay, though there is only a glimmer of moonlight now and then, we cross the gully higher up, and are soon stealing along in Indian file down one of these narrow, slippery tracks, keeping the thicket as a screen between ourselves and our prey. By this means, while the animal's attention was occupied by the dogs, we hoped to get close enough for H. to get a shot at him in a moment of moonlight.

I confess to feeling anything but confident that he was not making a mistake in the darkness, and leading us down a track up which at any moment the victim of our anticipations might make a sudden charge, a possibility that, hemmed in as we were on either side by tangled brushwood, it was not pleasant to dwell upon. In fact I freely admit that the nearer we approached that pig the less jovial I felt, and that proximity to the possible pork chops of to-morrow morning, while still in a state of fierce vitality to-night, tended considerably to lessen my enthusiasm concerning those delicacies. However, by some mysterious law of the nervous system which I will not attempt to explain, I enjoyed the very danger which produced my funk.

When about two hundred yards from the spot we wished to reach, Daggo suddenly stopped and pointing back to Dennis's lantern, made signs that it should be put out. To this Dennis strongly objected and only reluctantly complied—as we *thought*—when H. ordered him to do so. "Huh! petter he go pack to ped," was the native's contemptuous observation as he jogged on again.

A few minutes more we had got close enough to the scene of action to hear the savage champ, champ of the boar as he whetted his tusks—those terrible tusks, with which with an almost imperceptible jerk of his snout he could lay the strongest dog in the agonies of death. H., guided by Daggo, now creeps up to the thicket before alluded to, and Dennis and I separate, each to station ourselves where we have a chance of getting a blow at the enemy as he runs, should H's shot prove ineffectual. I was careful not to place myself directly in a track. To do so would have probably resulted, had the boar chosen that line of retreat, in finding myself knocked a considerable distance into the midst of the approaching week, after having aimed a wild and futile blow at no precise object and reclining on mother earth, with perhaps a gash in the leg and many little stars before my eyes, I should, no doubt, have *felt* that I had made a mistake.

I had been waiting some five or six minutes, axe in hand, anxiously listening for H's expected shot. I knew it would take some time to get a chance of firing without the risk of hurting the dogs, and besides, unluckily, the moon was just now obscured by clouds, and so I stood eagerly watching for them to pass over, when with startling suddenness, a few paces from me there streamed forth a red and flickering light, not the momentary flash of a rifle; and besides, there followed no report. But I had no time for conjectures, for the next moment I saw the boar, followed by the madly excited dogs, rushing straight in the direction of the light. There was a roar of anger in H's voice and a roar of fright in Dennis's, a canine howl or two, a crash, a groan, a clatter of tin, then sudden darkness again, the boar and dogs having disappeared into the night, as it were, in a sort of wild apotheosis of confusion. H. and I both ran to where the light had been, feeling anything but comfortable about poor Dennis's fate. We found him sitting in a cattle-track, and the moon shining out showed one side of his face thickly coated with mud as he looked up at us with a dazed expression of countenance and a sheepish air of a man who knows he has put his foot in it.

To the inquiry, "Much hurt, Dennis?" he ruefully replied, in a gasping sort of way:

"Och, the saints presarve us!—I—don't right-ly know—but I—b'lieve I'm alive, though there's more wind—been knocked out—of my body this blessed night—than I ever thought I had in it. There isn't a breath left in me big enough—to fill the lungs of a good-sized moskittey, so there isn't."

"No bones broken then?" said H.

"Faix, sorr, I hope not; but they're that shook up and mixed like, that I feel for all the world like a bundle of sticks tied up loose."

"Well, but what the devil did you do it for?" said H., who, seeing the culprit wasn't much hurt, thought it time to haul him over the coals a bit.

"Shure, wasn't I showing your honor a light to shute the baste by!" was poor Dennis's apologetic answer.

The fact was that, instead of having extinguished the lantern as we thought he had done, he had merely put it under his loose smock, and by flashing its light onto the boar at the moment he did he had thought, by thus assisting H. in his aim, to cover himself with glory, and to triumph over Daggo, between whom and himself a jealousy always existed. It was a *luminous* idea, but the result was a failure.

Annoyed and worried by the dogs—of which we had six of all breeds and sizes—the boar had not gone far when he again turned and stood at bay, this time close to a shallow creek, from which we drew our water for household purposes. When, guided by the barking of the dogs, we reached the place—though the sky had cleared we could see no pig, for he had ensconsed himself in a clump of fern against the trunk of a fallen tree. This fact was evident enough from the behavior of "Lockjaw," an animal half mastiff and half bulldog, whose terrible tenacity of grip had earned him his name. He was walking round and round the clump of fern, on which he kept a watchful eye, every now and then sniffing towards it with a faint whine of impatience. Even he, pluck to the backbone as he was, knew better than to make an attack on such an enemy in his present position. No, get the beast on the move so as to give the dog "half a slant," and with a word of encouragement Lockjaw would unhesitatingly pin by the ear or jowl the biggest pig that ever munched fern root.

The question now was how to dislodge the game. We might set on the dogs, but that course would probably result in getting one, and most likely the best of them, disabled, we therefore decided on the only other plan there was, namely that of firing into his hiding-place

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.)

ARE YOUR LUNGS WEAK?

To Every Sufferer from Catarrh, Coughs, Grippe, Consumption and Similar Signs of Lung Weakness a Great Specialist Offers His New Scientific FREE TREATMENT.

Nearly everybody you meet will feel insulted if you say they have weak lungs. All seem to have a solid faith in the soundness of their own breathing machine. They may admit they have a "heavy cold," "a touch of bronchitis," or even "a spell of asthma," but as to weak lungs, NEVER. Even the poor consumptive, who scarcely speaks without coughing, whose cheeks are wasted, hollow, and bear the hectic flush of doom, will assure you that he will be all right when the weather changes.

How many a poor bread-earner there is who keeps on and on at his daily toil, taking cough medicines by fits and starts, but never quite curing his cough, while this same cough is but a symptom of decay that is eating into his lungs, and will in time cause their destruction.

Thus does a wife observe her husband, or parents witness the struggle of a darling child, while no steps are taken to battle with the evil until consumption has seized on one more victim. It is terrible to think how far we may be guilty by our indifference to the lung troubles of those near and dear to us. It is also terrible to think that we may possibly hug a similar dangerous delusion as to our own health until too late to obtain a remedy.

Let us leave the distressing subject to come to what is practical.

Lung troubles don't move backward. Weak lungs must be healed and strengthened and rid of the very earliest germs of disease or you are simply committing a form of suicide. Either you must cure your lung troubles or THEY WILL KILL YOU. That's the whole situation in a nutshell.



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Never was there any positive cure for lung troubles until Dr. Slocum made the discovery which is now embodied in his new system of treatment. It cures weak lungs, bronchitis, asthma, coughs, consumption, catarrh and every other ailment of the pulmonary region. It destroys every germ that can affect the respiratory system, and even in advanced stages of lung trouble positively arrests the tubercular growth, while it also builds up the patient so that his system is enabled to throw off scrofula, rheumatism and other diseases. Thousands of cured cases already prove these statements. Thousands of grateful people bless the discoverer.

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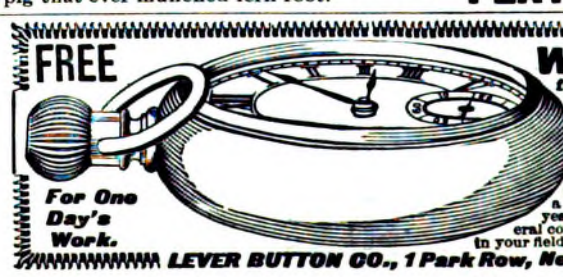
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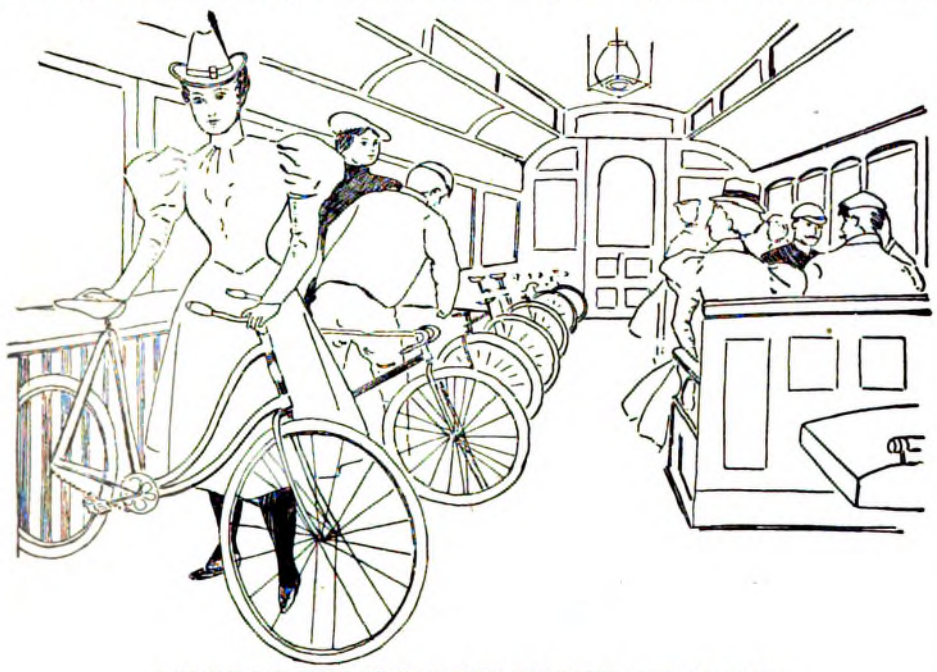
ALTHOUGH it is yet early in the season, manufacturers have already begun their models for the year. The various improvements which have been effected in the wheel during the past two seasons have not left very wide room for improvement in the product of 1899. Although the bevel gear has attained limited popularity, the old style of crank, sprocket and chain will still characterize the wheel. The general frame lines of last year's models will be maintained, although there may be reaction on the part of certain makers against the excessively short head. The short head, it is claimed by some, has been the cause of many frames getting twisted out of alignment because the lower tube running up from the bottom brackets at such a sharp angle there is more sway in the rear section of the machine. The rear wheel does not follow so quickly, and in turning corners sharply or steering through sand the twist on the frame is apt to be serious. This proposition, though, is not generally considered to be of much importance, and, as a rule, the dropped crank hangers and low heads will be retained.

The complaint on the part of some riders against the increased weight of roadsters and their efforts to bring wheels back to a pound or two nearer the scale of 1895 will pass unheeded, for the reason that, with the reduced prices prevailing, manufacturers cannot afford to take such risks on their guarantee as formerly. Lowering the weight of bicycles would mean a slightly increased cost of production and a decrease in the factor of safety. The lighter the wheels, the more liability to breakage, and necessarily an increase in the claims upon the producers for renewals of parts. As a matter of fact, the 1899 product is liable to be a half to one pound heavier than last year's. D-shaped rear forks and back stays will be retained.

Half a dozen makers, it is now known, will make up part of their stock with thirty-inch wheels, which annoys a few of the others, because with wheels thirty inches in diameter frame lines would have to be so altered that it means a complete change of patterns, with the consequent expense of new tools. This annoyance is felt because of the bare possibility of the thirty-inch man creating a demand and will not feel that he is carrying unnecessary weight. One who rides for pleasure will need a strong wheel, yet he is the rider who wants a light one. One of the most important questions to be settled, then, is the weight. As I have said, the wheels this year weigh more than they did last season, and are two or three pounds heavier than the wheels of the year before last; and it has been found by the experience of two seasons, that about twenty-five pounds is the lightest weight that is desirable in a road wheel.

A wheel should be selected with reference to what will be required of it at critical moments, instead of what it can do on an average, for no one cares to risk a long walk home with a broken machine on his shoulder. There is a tendency toward lower frames this year, the crank hanger being below a line drawn between the hubs of the two wheels. It is claimed that this is a gain in power, and certainly the beginner hasn't so far to fall from the saddle. Probably the most satisfactory saddle will be of the anatomical pattern, of which the Christy is the pioneer. In tires there are several good makes, but the single tube is now the favorite. When it comes to accessories, the purchaser finds any number of good things, new and old. In the matter of accessories it can be said that they should be selected with the same care as the wheel itself. Of lamps it may be said that a new thing at the show this year, and one which shows an improvement over all others, is one that has a swinging bracket and stands perpendicular, even when the wheel is laid on one side.

The new cushion frame device is totally unlike former so-called spring frames. There is no teetering or rebounding. It is a comfortable seat on the saddle at all times. There is no losing of pedals, no loss of power, and it is claimed to be a much faster frame than the rigid frame. Those who have ridden over rough roads and cobblestones will appreciate this new invention, because it permits them to ride on any kind of a road without jolting or jarring. In jumping car tracks and any kind of reasonable obstructions there is no loss of speed. In construction the new cushion frame is simple and effective. No change whatever is made in the general lines of the frame, the cushion action being entirely concealed in the tubing over the rear wheel. The device proper is composed of pneumatic telescoping tubes,



BICYCLE CAR USED ON NEW YORK ELEVATED, LAST SUMMER.

finding a market not open to the rest. As cycles with thirty-inch wheels are necessarily bigger and heavier, and, being more costly to make, are held at higher prices, they are not likely to appeal to the scorching element or to the great middle class of buyers who want medium prices. Large-sized riders who have large purses and exclusive ideas are apt to furnish the chief market for this type of cycle, and it is in recognition of these conditions that the majority of makers are holding aloof from the experiment. The fact that the larger the wheel the less vibration there is for the frame and the rider is about the strongest virtue in the thirty-inch wheels, although it is true, also, that the increased size of the frame permits of a greater drop at the crank hanger.

It is worth noting that there seems to be an increase in the number of those who ride the bicycle for pleasure and recreation—in other words, tourist riders. That manufacturers are recognizing the claims of this class of riders is apparent from the number of designs of "road wheels" which are shown in their catalogues. It is recognized by all the manufacturers that there is no one "best" bicycle. The sensible rider will no more seek a road wheel on which he can ride track races than he would of buying a dray horse which should also be a racer. While each manufacturer may claim that the wheels which he makes are the best in their class, he has found it necessary to make different classes according to the needs of the rider. The prospective purchaser, therefore, must first decide for what purpose he wishes a bicycle, and having settled that point, he can spend half a day profitably in examining models at different places.

To begin with, it is presumed that the buyer is looking for a wheel which will be generally serviceable; that is to say, one that will be firm and heavy enough to stand the wear and tear of country roads and rough city pavements, and yet will be light enough so that he working one within another. The innermost tube contains a graduated spiral steel spring within the telescoping tubes, sustaining the thrust of the rider when crossing obstructions. The air also serves to assist the spring and return the rider to a normal position without any tendency to an upward throw, no sudden jolt; a nice, easy motion that makes riding a pleasure. The air used in the tubes is always normal. Its action is absolutely automatic, and no pumping is required as with the pneumatic tire.

As to prices, it may be said that one can get a bicycle at almost any price, and as a rule, will get what he pays for. There is a tendency among the manufacturers to bring the price nearer the cost of production, and recognizing that inevitably the law of supply and demand must govern, manufacturers of chainless wheels have lowered the prices to $75, from $125 of last year. In doing this the manufacturers claim they have not cheapened their wheels, but believe that the reduced price for a "standard, high-grade" wheel will increase their sales enough to make up the difference, and have accepted the verdict of the people who declare that "$100 is too much for a bicycle."

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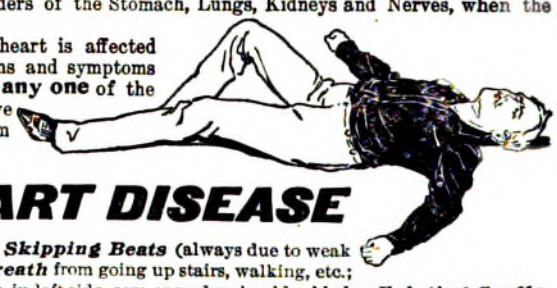
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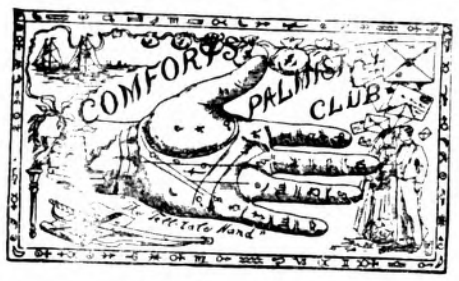
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IT seems necessary to call attention again to the rules that govern this department; especially the conditions for obtaining a reading here. Please remember that all applicants must send in four new subscribers with the price of the yearly subscription in every case. Also, the name of the sender must be given in the same package as the impressions, for purposes of identification; otherwise they will not be read at all.

The first hand to be read this month belongs to "May S," and a very complicated hand, having many broken and fine lines. It denotes a very nervous and highly sensitive person, one who will see many changes in life. Most of these, however, will be for the better, as there is a steady advance throughout life, which will be long and successful. This person has great tact and strong will power. She can gain great power over the masses, and if she adopts a public career will be remarkably successful in it. She is fond of music and of art, but if she adopts the stage or the lecture platform will find she has made no mistake, although she will meet with some obstacles at first. She will meet with opposition from her own people during the earlier part of her career, but she will persevere and will end with both fame and money. She will be popular with the opposite sex, but her mind is really set on something more than love and matrimony, and she will not make these her first object in life. These good things will come, however, in their own good time. She will receive the most admiration from men from thirty to forty and her most serious love affairs will come then. She is a very ambitious woman, and her "dreams will all come true." That is, she will be successful and by the time she is forty-five will be a very distinguished woman. If she is young now this may seem a long time to wait, but remember that no one has ever yet achieved distinction without working a long time for it, and that honors cheaply won are not prized at all. There is a great deal of good in this hand and a highly artistic temperament. If anything "May S." lacks in courage to go ahead on her own lines. She is bound down too much to the opinions of others. Perseverance and the courage of her own convictions are what she needs to cultivate. Do not be easily discouraged, for there is every indication of success; so whatever you make up your mind that you want to do or to be in life, that go to work at with a will. With such a hand as this there is no such word as "fail."



"MAY S."

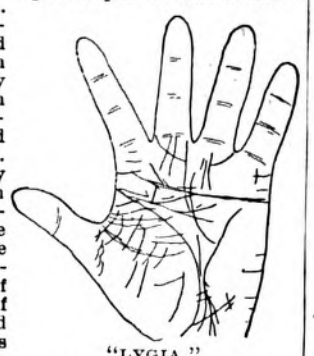
"Inventor" is the next to come under our inspection this month. This hand shows wonderful inventive genius. This is a straightforward nature, one that makes many friends and few enemies. In early life she was bound down by the rules of some one else older than she, and she has felt the lack of self confidence ever since; but she has found her own footing now and loves to study up new improvements for the good of her kind. She will turn this to good account and will succeed as an inventor. She ought to patent all her inventions and so protect her own ideas and reap the benefits of them herself; otherwise she will be liable to encounter infringements and troubles of that nature. She will marry but once and that about the age of thirty. I cannot tell by the impression before me whether she will have children or not. I should judge not, however. She will be successful for the most part, but will not live to a very great age, that is not beyond the age of sixty or so. She has great tact and will always make herself useful to the community where she lives. Her life will be spent in the same vicinity, although she will travel somewhat during the earlier part. Her inventions will prove lucrative in some degree, though she will never be very wealthy.



"INVENTOR."

"Lygia's" hand is of a very different type. She will marry young and be quite happy for ten or twelve years. Then she will be left a widow and will marry again when she is about the age of thirty-five. I think her second husband will outlive her. She has a very amiable, sweet disposition and has hosts of friends. She is imaginative, fond of reading, of music and pictures. The opposite sex are quite devoted to her and always will be, as this is the sort of women that men adore. She is fascinating in her manners and witty in conversation, understanding the art of making each hearer feel that she listens with the deepest interest to what he has to say. In short, she is sympathetic with every one who comes into her circle. She will have one or two children who will love her devotedly. On the whole this hand indicates a happy and beloved person if not a great career.

"Althea" has a hand indicating a great deal of character and promise for the future. It is a hand with exceptionally good lines in many respects; strongly marked and indicative of success. She is a person of great tact, good judgment, and is well fitted to get along with other people. In whatever dealings she has with others she will be gracious, tactful and helpful. She is of a philosophical turn of mind and scientific. She is fond of scientific studies and will succeed in any that she may undertake. In medicine especially she will find her vocation. There are many lines rising from the life line, especially up to the age of fifty. These all indicate success, and some of them success of the most marked character. She is very ambitious, and the star on Jupiter indicates that she will succeed in her ambitions. She will have some hard battles to fight, however, before she wins success, and these will all come between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five. She is, however, fitted to fight all the battles that are necessary to win success, as she has perseverance, courage and energy and she will not give up when she undertakes a thing. On this account she will succeed, and will become distinguished even in some branches which she undertakes. There will be one journey in her life, about middle life, which will contribute to her success and will probably extend into foreign lands. She will go abroad to study, or in some way connected with her business or profession. It will be a very successful trip, as in fact all that she undertakes contributes in the end to her success; although there may be some fighting of obstacles to do before she wins success. I think she will marry twice, and the last marriage will be more successful and perhaps happier than the first, although there are no indications of serious unhappiness which she does not overcome. I am much pleased with this hand and would encourage the owner of it to go forward in her scientific studies and to carry them on as far as possible as she has the qualities for success in a marked degree.

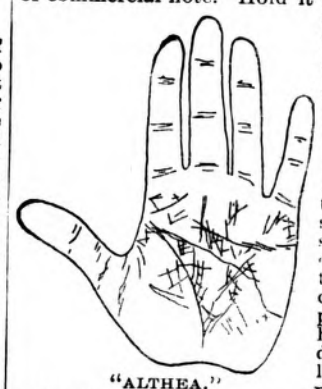


"LYGIA."

Several hands come to me in plaster of paris which is apt to crack and break up, and in putty which almost invariably peels off. Smoked paper impressions are far preferable to any other if properly treated with fixatif. The latter is a preparation of diluted gum arabic, which can be obtained at any druggist's or wherever artists' materials are sold. It is to be sprayed over the fresh impressions with an atomizer.

I will start off the new year by repeating the directions for taking impressions, and I wish you would all pay close heed to them.

Take a large sheet of white paper, legal cap or commercial note. Hold it carefully over an oil or spirit lamp, or better yet, a lighted candle. Hold it near enough the flame so that the smoke will leave a fine black deposit without burning the paper. When the paper is well smoked, lay it, smoked-side up on a flat board or table (without a cloth). Then place the right hand, palm downward, firmly on the paper, pressing hard without moving it a hair's breadth. Hold it so a minute, then take up quickly without disturbing in the least the impressions made. Have ready some artists' fixatif (procurable at any store where artists' materials are kept) in an atomizer. With the latter squeeze sufficient of the fixatif over the impression made to keep it from rubbing. This gives an indelible impression.



"ALTHEA."

If you will secure a club of four subscribers at 50 cents per year and send same with money and impression of your palm, we will be pleased to read same, and reading will appear in the earliest possible issue of COMFORT.

Digitus

Strange New Shrub that Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, etc.—Free.

We have previously described the new botanic discovery, Alkavis, which proves a specific cure for diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disorder of the Kidneys or urinary organs. It is now stated that Alkavis is a product of the well-known Kava-Kava Shrub, and is a specific cure for these diseases, just as quinine is for malaria. Hon. R. C. Wood of Lowell, Ind., writes that in four weeks Alkavis cured him of Rheumatism and Kidney and bladder disease of ten years' standing, and Rev. Thomas M. Owen, of West Pawlet, Vt., gives similar testimony. Many ladies also testify to its wonderful curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood. The only importers of Alkavis so far are the Church Kidney Cure Co., of 409 Fourth Avenue, New York, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of COMFORT, who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, difficult or too frequent passing water, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative power.

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We recommend above firm as thoroughly reliable.—EDITOR.

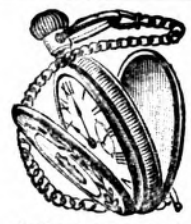
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Now that we have actually reached "fin-de-siecle" we hear nothing of the phrase that answered for every situation in life a year ago. Worn out before it actually had the right to live! 1899 is "close of the century" but no one says it in French.

"A Happy New Year!" The phrase seems stereotyped but a mental review of the situation at the opening of 1899 warrants the reality of the fulfillment. Peace within our borders, prosperity at our gates and the last year of the century suggesting a promise for the future. A "Happy New Year" in very truth.

One of the most popular plays for some years was a farcical affair named "Too Much Johnson." A glance at some curios in the line of statistics would incline a whimsical observer to the idea that the title might have originated in a knowledge of Chicago statistics. The prevalence of certain names is indicated in this table and Chicago enjoys the proud distinction of being the only large city that has not an excess of Smiths over every other name in the calendar. Chicago has more Johnsons than citizens of any other name.

France furnishes entertainment to the other nations of Europe of the continuous variety order. From rapid changes in her form of government she has grown to rapid changes in the parties administrating government. Volatile, fickle, easily excited, passionate and willful has been the France of the last twenty-five years. The close student of affairs can however discern signs of growing moral steadiness in the attitude of France during the last few months. It was the saner part of the French people who insisted and forced a revision of the famous Dreyfus affair. With the press and people of Europe clamoring and seemingly endeavoring to bring on a conflict, France possessed a calm course in the Fashoda matter. Whether a republican form of government can be a success with the Latin races is an open question. France has not yet answered it in the affirmative, but a growing strength in the moral fiber of her people has been noted in the last two points of difficulty that the government has been obliged to settle.

Sometimes an almost forgotten voice from the past sounds like a prophecy when heard through the medium of the present. In 1584, Richard Hakluyt wrote one of the first English books concerning America. The object was to interest Queen Elizabeth in the new lands. Spain and England were then on the verge of war. The treasure that made Spain the leading nation of the world came largely from America. Hakluyt pointed out to the queen that the wisest move was to deprive Philip of his West Indian possessions. He says: "If you touch him in the Indies, you touch the apple of his eyes, for to take away his treasure which he hath at most out of his West Indies, his olde bandes of souldiers well soone be dissolved, his purpose defeated, his pride abated and his tyranne utterly suppressed. He shall be left bare as Esop's crawe." Three hundred and fourteen years have passed since those meaning words were uttered. During all that time the West Indies have continued to pour riches into the coffers of Spain. It was not England but England's great daughter that at last has left Spain "bare as Esop's crawe". In this same connection the comment of an early traveler upon the national and inevitable commercial relations between the United States and the Philippines is another seeming prediction that has come true.

Cornell University has inaugurated a movement commendable in its purpose and far reaching in its results. The College of Agriculture has noted with regret the growing tendency of the young people to leave farm or country life and to flock to the cities. It has been thought that this was not altogether due to the desire to escape the hard struggle of country life. The average boy upon the farm has hours of leisure when the lad employed in the city has minutes. It is a harder mental and physical task to sustain existence in the city than in the country. The attraction of the city lies in the many interests and amusements that it furnishes so liberally to its citizens. Cornell University wishes to make country life as interesting to the people living there as city life is to the town dwellers. There is a living, breathing world about the dweller in the country but he has not been trained to observe it. Plants, birds, flowers, insects, all tell a story of wonderful interest but even the alphabet of this thrilling story is unknown to the people best placed to read it. With the purpose of making "Nature Study" a part of the everyday life of the people, Cornell has sent a bright young woman familiar with every detail of national science into each meeting of teachers in the state. She carries specimens with her and in a simple, direct, forcible manner she interests the teachers in the subject matter that God has placed all around them. Through the 30,000 teachers of the state it is believed the children can be trained to an observation that will add a new interest to their lives and a new element of beauty and kindness to their development into men and women. Cornell also sends out free printed matter to all interested in Nature Study. More than a thousand teachers a month are sending in requests for this material. The movement is one of great educational and popular interest. Aside from the immediate effect upon the individual child whose senses are trained by this observation of reality, is this element of making country life attractive.

Each year brings some new development in altruistic movements. People are struggling to solve the problem not alone of how to live but of how to live well. The man who has any plan or idea that looks towards the better use of life finds eager listeners. One of the latest developments of this line of work is the People's Institute of New York City. It numbers among its incorporators and advisory, names that have long been prominent in all the philosophical and philanthropical work of the last decade. A series of free lectures are planned to continue from November until May. The larger number of these are to be held in the great hall of Cooper Union. Those in all lines of work who have attained prominence are in the list of speakers, leading members of the faculty of universities, men prominent in labor or social reform or any one who has a message to give to man. The Monday lectures are upon Nineteenth Century History and include a discussion of the place of each of the Great Powers in the history of the century. The Friday programme is upon Present Problems and the list of lectures indicate the idea of the directors as to what the problems of the day are. Among the lectures are: "Our New Territories and the Problems They Offer;" Lyman Abbott speaks upon "Our New Responsibilities" and Titus Coan speaks upon Hawaii as he is the author of several books on the subject; "Bolivar and the Spanish American War of Independence," "Cuba and Porto Rico," "The Philippines," "The Philippines and a Colonial Policy," and "What We May Learn from Spain" are among other topics. Booker Washington speaks upon "Race Problem in the United States." Samuel Gompero speaks upon "The Rough Struggle and the Noble Aspirations of Labor." Edward Everett Hale speaks upon "Emerson as an Interpreter of Life Problems." These lectures are followed by discussion. They are designed for the people. No man is too elevated in station or rich in purse or advanced intellectually to be beyond the helpful influence of these vivid presentations of the life of the century. On the other hand no laborer or even wanderer in the streets of the city is excluded. The Institute aims to show first "the brotherhood of man" and the unity of human life and effort. It is a great work and an interesting development of the helpful hopeful spirit of the century. Long life to the People's Institute.

The year just closing has been one of the greatest moment to the United States. The turning point of the roads seems to have been reached but we have not yet gone far enough in the new path to determine with what success or ill we shall tread it or where its end may lie. One year ago the man who should have predicted that the United States within a year would acquire possessions on the opposite side of the world would have been considered a madman. Many of the most conservative of our thinkers and students do not favor the new doctrine of colonial expansion. They point to the fact that we as a nation have not made a brilliant success of our treatment of the Indian and neither have we yet solved the race problem presented in the South. Incidentally both those alien races are within the government of the national or state laws. The great mass of the American people are however cheerfully optimistic. In spite of the fact that the Anglo Saxon race from the time of its earliest contact with "Indians" and throughout its varied experiences with "lesser breeds without the law" has not been particularly successful with savage races, they anticipate few difficulties with the savage millions that will be dependent upon them. It is a problem too deep to solve by surmise or plausible probabilities. It is a problem that will tax the powers of the nation for years to come. It will not be successfully solved in this generation or the next. We may feel joy at our magnificent territorial expansion but we must feel solemn and weighty obligation. Theories must become acts when the Philippines are ours. The men at the head of affairs will have responsibilities greater even than those of the founders of this republic. We can only reassure ourselves by turning from the heavy responsibility and the puzzling new questions and realizing that the great nation that has assumed them is honest, earnest, progressive and buoyant with a belief in itself. Many people have urged that in order to be consistent this country could not avail itself of the territory it had conquered. We entered the war to force Spain to a right course in Cuban matters and we leave it with a new doctrine of imperialism and of territorial expansion contrary to all precedents of our government. In regard to this last claim it might be considered that the United States is too young a nation to have set all the precedents that will influence its history. We are only ten years past the century mark as a nation, and the precedents of Washington's administration are yet new in the face of the lengthy history of other nations. We have a precedent for a change of motive in our wars. Our great war of independence was not entered for that purpose. For over a year the Continental Army was fighting for the principle "no taxation without representation." It was only after over a year of fighting that we determined to change the battle to a war for independence. Patrick Henry and even Washington himself were not convinced of the wisdom of that change of motive but both lived to heartily endorse it. The Civil War was entered upon solely to demonstrate the principle "No Secession" but it ended in "No Slavery." We have been able to meet the war issues that were unexpected and unpremeditated—and we can do so again.

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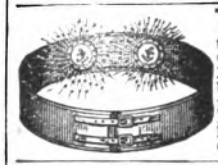
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No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
35	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
18	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
33	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
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39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
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29	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
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7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
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119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
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2	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
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190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
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19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
4	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song	Mosher
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28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
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48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
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96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
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68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
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112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
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110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
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23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
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10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
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108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
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62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
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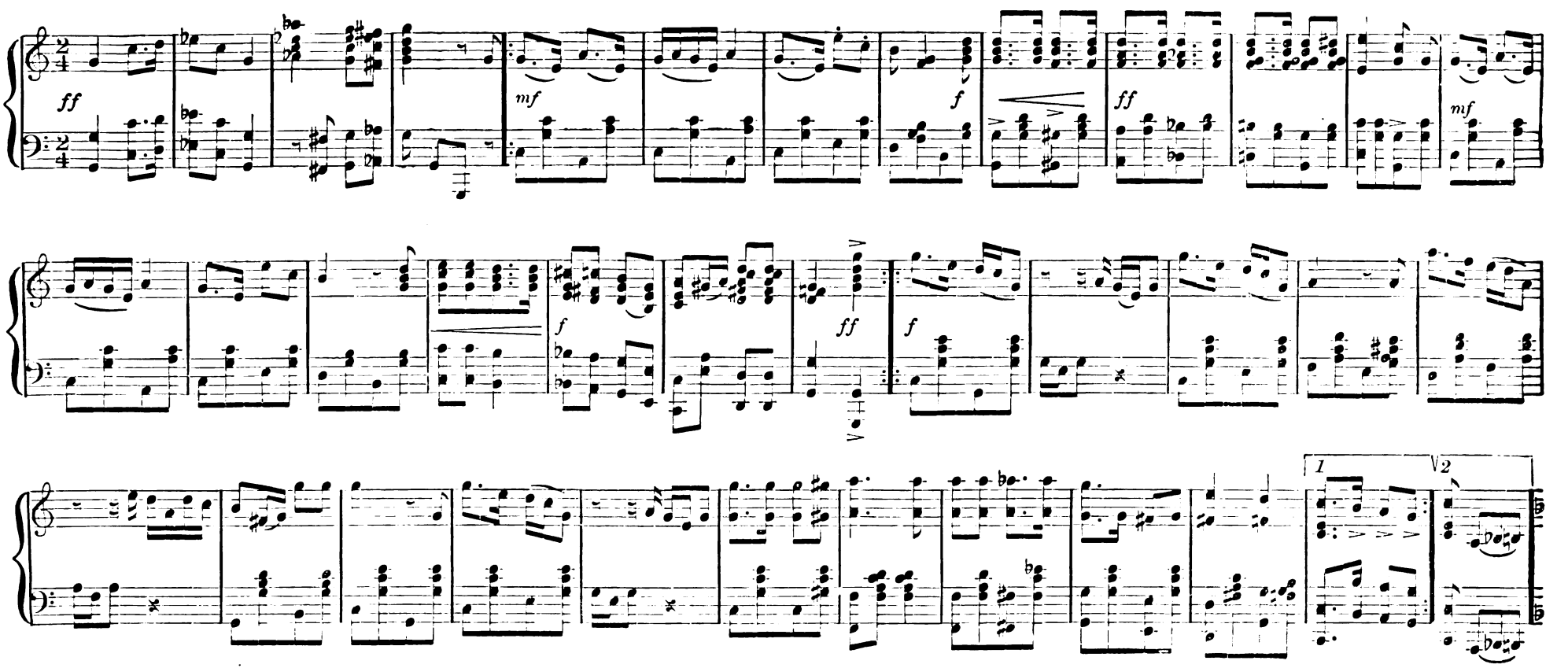
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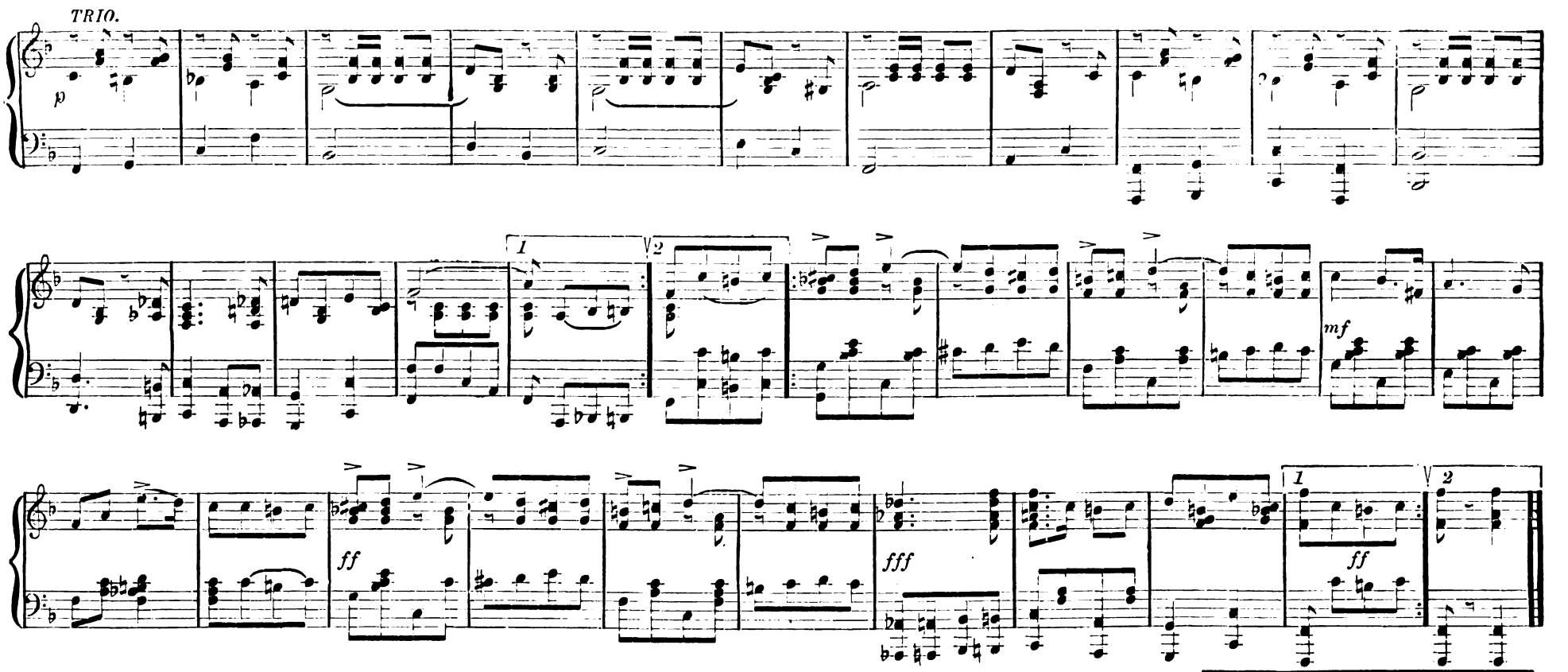
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RED CROSS MARCH.

WM. C. HAMILTON.





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There has never been a year when the musical city organizations have been doing so much and planning so many of the popular musical evenings as the present one. All kinds of evening entertainments as well as afternoon gatherings are being held to cultivate and encourage the growing taste for musical pleasure. The growth of popular concerts of mixed vocal and instrumental music is something phenomenal, and almost every city or town that boasts of an orchestra, a musical club or even a Brass band has arranged a series of popular evening concerts.

Nothing pleases more at all of these entertainments than the productions written in march time. We have pointed out frequently how outward affairs have always influenced the character of popular music and just now when our country is emerging from a great war the hearts of our people more readily respond to anything having the martial air. For this reason every march having what is called a "military swing" to it catches instantly the popular favor, and this same favor is extended to all songs on the stage in the same military tenor.

The military spirit which comes to every country once every generation is in full flood in America and the whole popular taste trends in that direction in every popular fancy or fad. Throughout the autumn the various meetings of semi-military organizations such as the Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias and many other large bodies have given ample opportunity for the display of military enthusiasm in marching, parading etc. Probably no finer sight could be imagined than the great parade of Knights Templar at Pittsburg last October on the occasion of their triennial conclave. As usual the musical composers were alive to the occasion with many creditable compositions; but only one had that great merit which will make it permanently popular.

We refer to the Red Cross March published in this number by permission of S. Hamilton, Pittsburg, Pa., and written by William C. Hamilton of the same city. On this grand occasion when nearly twenty thousand knights marched in the parade, and when fully four hundred thousand people visited the city no one air received such honor and attention as the march now published on this page. Its success was instantaneous and the first edition of 5000, much to the surprise of its owners, was sold with phenomenal rapidity.

The march was written in honor of the Tancred Commandery of Pittsburg and was the official march of the escort of the Grand Commander of the United States and was played by many of the other bands, along almost the entire route of the parade, eight miles. It also headed every official program at the different headquarters wherever dances were in order or orchestras and bands were used and its resulting sale in sheet form was a surprise to all who know the difficulties of introducing a new musical gem.

It is pleasant to remember that as the musical art is becoming more generally known and appreciated among the people, modern methods advanced as in any other field are taking the place of the old-fashioned ways that seem to have always prevailed in the publication of music. The demand makes competition in production; and that in turn leads to lower prices. This is why the old high prices are gradually disappearing; it is this that places the best sheet music in the hands of the poor as well as the rich; it is this that allows any person with a natural taste for music to be no longer debarred from its pleasures on account of excessive cost. The old day of high prices is slowly passing and the new one of good material at reasonable rates is with us.

Nothing has more helped in this great advance of musical culture among the masses than the course that COMFORT has adopted in putting out the very best music in sheet form at the lowest possible price. Instead of paying a dollar or a half dollar for a single sheet of music, under COMFORT'S great mutual benefit plan the music lover receives the very best in full size words, notes and sheet for a trifle above the cost of postage. Often people who have not taken advantage of the wonderful offer doubt what is promised. We can only say we will gladly refund the money should the music not prove on examination exactly what we promise. "Think I have a bargain," says Frank H. Camp, 1110 Madison St., St. Louis, a man living right in one of the largest cities of the Union, and right where great city bargains offer temptations.

"It is perfectly satisfactory. I am very much obliged to you for the prompt delivery," writes Mrs. W. C. Davis, Richmond, Va. Another city inhabitant that knows what a music bargain means. So you see it is appreciated everywhere. "The music is much better than I expected and is gotten up much better than some I have paid 40 cents to 75 cents for," writes Will S. Catlin, Blairsville, Pa., after testing the offer. "I got music that was cheap but I never struck such a sale as this," is the testimony of Lucia Robbins, Box 44, Waverly, Mo. And so we might go on indefinitely copying the words of delighted people who have tried our plan.

On another page will be found a long list of varied music which forms as a whole the choicest and best collection of music ever offered the public. Every piece is a selected gem and as a whole they form a grand lot. The most wonderful feature is the almost ridiculously low price you get the music at under the offer. Even if you do not want it yourself, you have hundreds of friends who would appreciate your kindness if you would use the offer and give them the music; or, if you cannot do that, at least oblige them by showing them this copy of COMFORT and asking them to read the list and the offer. Remember we guarantee satisfaction.

Our previous offers have had many pieces but in this one are a lot of new ones of great beauty and undoubted merit, among which we mention: 69, Flirting in the Starlight, a beautiful waltz; 185, Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still, ever popular; 74, In Sweet September; 188, In the Starlight. Both of which are gems. These and any of the others will please those who are looking for a bargain in music, such as was never before heard of.

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AUSTRALIA.



AUSTRALIA has been called a "fossil continent" because it presents types of life which have perished or become insignificant elsewhere. About the beginning of the Tartary period of geology a convulsion of nature severed the connection which at one time existed between Australia and Asia, and from that time the former has been left to develop herself. Wallace's Line, a belt of deep sea that cuts through the Malay Archipelago, and all the fauna south of this line, except many of the birds and a few animals that have been carried there recently, are of a special and characteristic type. At the time of the severance small creatures of the marsupial or kangaroo type prevailed all over the world. In Australia these have developed slowly and undisturbed. In the rest of the world they were obliged to give way before stronger animals, till at length no advanced marsupial is left, with the exception of the opossum. The hairy birds such as the apteryx, belonging to a type extinct elsewhere, and finally much of the vegetation—the gum trees, the casuarinas and the wiry undergrowth—is a survival from the floras of past geological ages.



HOW many women realize that not less than ten million birds are killed every year that their hats may be decorated? Not only is this cruel, and many million nestlings thus left to starve,—but it also leaves destructive insects without an enemy, to destroy whole crops and annoy farmers, cattle and horses. The aigrette is taken from the female heron, and grows only when she has young,—therefore when this is taken a whole family of young are left without a protector and thus perish. Much has been done to decrease this needless slaughter of innocents, but much more *might* be done if every woman in the land would content herself with ribbons, flowers, velvets, ostrich plumes and all the long array of beautiful trimmings, instead of buying birds and their wings.

PEACE WITH SPAIN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AT last the long considered treaty of peace between America and Spain has actually been signed by the Commissioners of the two countries holding the conference in Paris. As our readers will remember, COMFORT a short time ago described the method by which the protocol of peace was signed at Washington by our Secretary of State, W. H. Day, and by M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, acting for Spain. This protocol, or preliminary articles of peace provided for the meeting of the joint Commissioners at Paris to settle definitely the formal and final terms of the treaty. This now comes before the United States Senate for ratification and will need a two-thirds vote for acceptance, which it will undoubtedly have, as no party will seriously oppose its acceptance and so discredit the country's representation.

Until the administration shall make public the terms of the treaty its exact contents cannot be given, but there is no reasonable doubt for believing that the reports sent by the great news-gathering unions to the newspapers are spoken by card; and, that the terms there appearing are reasonably accurate. On Saturday December 10th, the Commission met for the last time at half-past three in the afternoon. At that hour the treaty had not been entirely engrossed and was brought into the session in sections as rapidly as copied.

At this historic meeting, which signalled the end of Spanish rule in the New World, the Americans appeared first, and, half an hour later were followed by the Spaniards, with whom they shook hands; but this did not relieve the Spaniards of the look of excessive solemnity and care that gave a funereal appearance to the occasion. After a careful reading of the treaty and a recess, the signatures were affixed to the important document at quarter to nine o'clock in the evening.

A slightly amusing fact came from the great contest among friends and relatives of the Americans for the possession of the pens with which the signatures to the treaty were written. It is told that some of the Americans provided themselves with very handsome ones for this purpose; but the Spaniards, who appeared unaffected by the souvenir craze and were absolutely indifferent contented themselves with the ordinary quill pens which were strewn upon the table. No sooner had Senor Montero Rios, the Chairman of the Spanish Commissioners affixed his signature than an American interpreter requested him for the pen, saying:

"Have you any desire to preserve the pen with which you will sign?"

"Not in the slightest," said the Spaniard, with a courtly salute to the interpreter, at the same time handing him the quill, with which he had signed the famous document which had been prepared by Secretary Moore for the Americans and Secretary Senor Villarutia for the Spaniards, and which appeared in parallel columns in the two languages in every copy.

The treaty which was finally signed as given to the representatives of the press, although not in accurate form, is as follows: Article 1 provides for the relinquishment of Cuba; article 2, provides for the cession of Porto Rico; article 3, provides for the cession of the Philippines for $20,000,000 as a compensation; article 4, embraces the plans for the cession of the Philippines, including the return of Spanish prisoners in the parts of Tagalos; article 5, deals with the cession of the barracks, war material, arms, stores, buildings and all property appertaining to the Spanish administration in the Philippines; article 6, is a renunciation by both nations of their respective claims against each other and the citizens of others; article 7, grants to Spanish trade and shipping in the Philippines the same treatment as American trade for a period of 10 years. Article 8, provides for the release of all prisoners of war held by Spain and of all prisoners held by her for political offenses committed in the colonies acquired by the United States; article 9, guarantees the legal rights of Spaniards remaining in Cuba; article 10, establishes religious freedom in the Philippines and guarantees to all churches equal rights; article 11, provides for the composition of courts and other tribunals in Porto Rico and Cuba; article 12, provides for the administration of justice in Porto Rico and Cuba; article 13, provides for the continuance for five years of Spanish copyrights in the ceded territories; article 15, grants



SENOR EUGENIO MONTERO RIOS.

to Spanish commerce in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, the same treatment as to American for 10 years. Spanish shipping to be treated as coasting vessels; article 16, stipulates that the obligation of the United States to Spanish citizens and property in Cuba shall terminate with the withdrawal of the United States authorities from the island; article 17, provides that the treaty must be ratified and within six months from date of signing by the respective governments in order to be binding.

This war between the United States and Spain began April 21, 1898, the date being named in the act of Congress as April 25, declaring state of war existed. The protocol of of peace was signed August 12. Actual fighting lasted 114 days, while from the beginning of the war to the signing of peace, December 10, the entire period was 233 days. The results of the war in transfer of valuable colonies and territory are probably unequaled in history.

The possession of the Philippines is something that was never considered in the list of possibilities a year ago. At that time our readers will remember that the entire talk was of the sufferings of the Cubans through the misrule of the Spaniards. If war must come it was to be entirely on the ground of humanity, and not of conquest. It is doubtful if outside a few persons, then called "Jingoes" in derision, there were a handful of Americans who had the slightest wish or desire for colonial possessions. The whole course of the nation for more than a century had been founded on the Monroe Doctrine which was simply an announcement that while we would not meddle with the affairs of European nations, American governments were to be left to themselves without European intervention in their affairs.

Admiral Dewey's wonderful victory in reality captured for us Manila and it became evident from that time that the whole archipelago would come to us through force of conquest. Americans at first paid little attention and it was only on the apparent display of the intention of Germany to take a hand in the disposi-



SENOR SAGASTA, THE SPANISH PREMIER.

tion of the islands that it became evident that the Union did not intend to let go what it had captured. It seems evident to COMFORT that the feelings of the Americans have undergone a most remarkable change relative to expansion, and that a people who a year ago would not have dreamed of territorial acquisition are now looking on eagerly in foreign questions, and so far as the great East is concerned have now a personal interest in affairs. The pleasant feeling resulting from England's marked position taken in our favor throughout the war has caused us to read with deeper interest the affairs of the world in which she is interested. There will always be croakers and conservatives who would prevent the onward march of events. In the Revolution we had Tories; in the war of 1812, Anti-war party men; in the Mexican War, non-expansionists; in the Civil War, "Copperheads;" in the present war we find the same element again appearing in a new form and "agin the government." Having no responsibility it is unnecessary for this element to point out what should be done, but merely criticism of passing events. Trusting in God and His infinite wisdom, this great American Republic, standing as it always has for freedom and the rights of man, will go forward carrying to the heathen nations of the sea the sweet gospel of liberty for every man.

What the final effect on Spain will be, no person can at present prophesy. Throughout the war there has been discontent and rioting in every part of the kingdom; and only the feeling that there was hope to win against the United States has caused any united action on the part of the Spaniards. When the overwhelming success of the United States showed that there was no longer any hope for a successful issue for the kingdom, the spirit of the people gave way to a state of sullenness and despair. One thing was made certain, and that was that no faction or person would rob Sagasta of the discredit of the settlement of peace; and notwithstanding the frequent threats of the overthrow of the ministry nothing has been done, but all have awaited what is to them humiliating peace.

The entire kingdom is a hotbed of sedition, conspiracy and rebellion. The Carlists, who desire the monarchy continued but under the head of Don Carlos, are very active and have been found secreting arms and ammunition in all parts of the kingdom. Another and almost more formidable faction are the discontented army people, who feel that the treaty is signed without giving the army a chance to show its power. Such men as General Weyler and his followers have been preaching sedition and disloyalty ever since Weyler's return from Cuba. There is still another faction who desire the establishment of a republic, but a Spanish republic is so only in name. Aside from these warring factions is a very large majority of the people who desire nothing but peaceful methods to gain a livelihood and to improve trade. The merchants believe that the country is well enough off without colonies, and that being assured of a chance to trade in their late possessions, where the language used is entirely Spanish, gives them all the privileges needed, while the Government itself will have no expense to maintain the colonies.

It will be read with much interest by all Americans that already three of the fleet which were sent to the bottom by the guns of Admiral Dewey's fleet on the first of May, have been raised and proceeded to Hong Kong under their own steam, where they will be repaired and become part of the effective force of American ships in Eastern waters. The conditions for raising these ships were much more favorable than those surrounding the sunken ships of Admiral Cervera's fleet. In the former case, the ships were sunk in the waters of a bay where storms had no effect, and where it was only easy work to raise them to the top; but on the coast of Cuba there are high tides, severe storms and a tremendous surf so that it is almost impossible to raise the ships. The raising of the Infanta Maria Teresa by Hobson was a wonderful work, and had she not met a storm on her way to Norfolk from Cuba she would have been rebuilt and been an object lesson to millions of Americans. Unfortunately she met a violent hurricane on her way, and to save their lives her crew was taken off by the accompanying tugs. It was believed at the time she sunk at once; but in her water-logged condition she was driven some forty or fifty miles to Cat Island and there beached herself. The examinations both by the Government and the wrecking parties show that she cannot be saved or even removed from where she is, and the wreckers on Bahama Keys have looted her of every available thing.

But a short time ago we related the enthusiasm of the West over President McKinley, during his visit to that section of the country. His recent Southern trip and the opening of the Peace Jubilee in Atlanta, have been the most significant ovations of modern times. The wild enthusiasm over himself, the soldiers and all pertaining to the Government, give most convincing proof of his popularity and the endorsement of his policy; but, what is better, the fuller proof that this is again a united nation and that all differences of the past have been blotted out by the present war. In the midst of this Col. Bryan resigned and again appears in the arena of National politics as a pronounced opponent of the administration and of any policy looking toward National expansion. It is believed that the silver issue being practically out of mind, Col. Bryan intends to lead his party against President McKinley with the expectation that the verdict of the American voters given in 1896 will be reversed in the election of 1900; and that in that campaign both he and President McKinley will again lead their respective parties.

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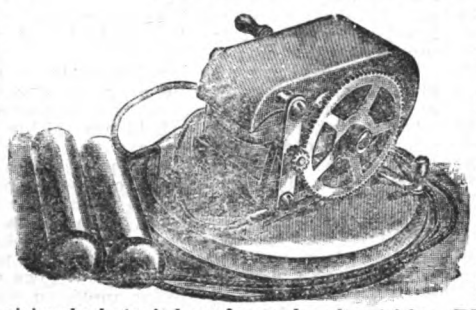
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The White Land of the North.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WRAPPED in an eternal mantle of ice and snow lies the great white land of the North. Since the days when the Vikings ventured in their open boats to the edge of the ice, man has sought to go farther, and know more of the mystery which encircles the pole. To-day science leads her followers thither and no danger and privation is too great to be undertaken in her cause. He who has lately added to our knowledge of the northern zone and who now holds the record of "farthest north" is Dr. Fridtjof Nansen.

On the coast of Greenland, driftwood, tiny plants and soil are often found which have been proved to come from the coast of Asia. Some years ago relics were found on this shore which most conclusively were part of the Jeanette, De Long's vessel, which foundered off the north coast of Asia three years before. All these things pointed to the fact that the ice from the eastern part of the Arctic ocean drifted across or near the pole and down the coast of Greenland. It was these facts that first suggested to Dr. Nansen the novel and untried experiment of using the ice, the enemy and destroyer of all previous expeditions, as his motive power. In spite of the unpopularity of this scheme among Arctic explorers (who prophesied a sad failure), Nansen determined to make the experiment.

The *Fram* was built with special regard to the work it was to do, broad and solid, with smooth sides rounding out and downward so that the ice would slip down and under, and the vessel be raised instead of "nipped" in the ice. Everything was arranged for safety and comfort. An electric plant worked by a windmill gave them light. In the saloon was an excellent library, pictures and musical instruments.

In July, 1893, the Fram sailed from Norway, around North Cape, along the northern coast of Europe and Asia to the New Siberian islands, when she turned toward the north and in September came to the edge of the ice pack and anchored to a floe. The ice piled up about her and ground against her sides, but she stood firm and rose steadily until she lay in a bed of ice thirty feet thick and listing a little to one side.

The long, monotonous night now settled down upon the little colony in the *Fram*. The occasional visit of a bear and the constant attention to the scientific investigations made the only excitement. Grand and beautiful was that winter night. The heavens were brilliant with stars and flashing with the long streamers of the aurora borealis, now pink fading to lilac and yellow, or blue, and every moment changing shape like the glass in a kaleidoscope. At length came the sun again, bringing light and a small degree of warmth, but not the green luxuriance and flowery beauty of the temperate clime. Yet, even there the bright sun cheers as it sparkles on the great ridges of ice and makes miniature lakes in the ice where sailing with small boats is possible. By autumn Nansen had decided to leave the ship in the spring and with one companion penetrate as far into the north as possible with sledges, while the Fram and the rest of the expedition drifted according to the original plan. All the second winter was spent in preparation for this journey. Kayaks, or Esquimau canoes, were built, and trial trips were made with the dogs, and food was carefully prepared. In March 1895, Nansen and Johansen left the ship and their companions. Their outfit consisted of three sledges, two kayaks, twenty-eight dogs, and provisions for one hundred days.

Over vast expanses of ice pressed into ridges



NANSEN ON SKIS.

and uneven folds they journeyed. Constantly the sledges were overturned, or the skis caught in the rough ice and were broken. Day by day they neared the pole until on April 7, 1895, they paused in latitude 86 degrees, 14 minutes N. only 224 miles from the pole. They were now 174 miles nearer the end of the earth's axis than any white man had ever been. Here, however, was their limit. What a temptation to go on! To prove that the whole great polar area was an ice-covered sea, that no land existed there, for no trace of land had they found thus far. But good judgment told them to turn back and use the good weather and the light in reaching Franz Joseph Land. Now the ice opened in long lanes and they must use their kayaks. Day after day they worked their way south over and through the ice. One by one the dogs gave out and were killed. Provisions were scanty and they subsisted on walrus flesh, which was abundant. Night and day differed little and the great red sun rolled around the horizon scarcely disappearing in the twenty-four hours. Day after day they watched in vain for land until in July a few dark cliffs were sighted far away.

Imagine the feelings of the two men as they looked upon land for the first time in two years. Behind them was the vast desert of ice and snow where year after year it would be ever the same, and before them that arching white land with black rocks emerging from the snowfields. Land at last! The emblem to them of the world of men. Thirteen days more of rough going and they reached the shore of this northern coast of Franz Joseph Land. It was now too late in the year to think of reaching civilization before darkness came again, so they built a small hut of stones, roofed with walrus hide. Here all winter Nansen and Johansen lived, sleeping at night in their one long sleeping bag on the rough ground of the hut. Their provisions were now exhausted and they lived on bear's meat. For months they were unable to change their clothing or bathe their bodies, and the soot from their oil lamp (which gave but little heat) blackened their faces and their long hair and beards. When the spring came again they started off to the south. Six weeks they traveled on, when at last they were startled by the sound of the barking of dogs. Nansen pressed forward rapidly, and discovered the figure of a man—a strange man—the first he had seen in three years. It was Jackson of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition which had wintered at Cape Flora. A hearty welcome was waiting at the little station when it was discovered who the wanderers were, and strange it must have seemed to Nansen and Johansen to step from the desert of ice and snow, from privation and hardship into the comfort of the well-kept camp at Cape Flora.

In August the *Windward* bore them to Norway, and great was the rejoicing at their arri-



ROUTE OF FRAM.....
NANSEN'S SLEDGE JOURNEY_____

val. One week latter the *Fram* arrived, having drifted as Nansen had expected, across the Polar Sea to the west of Spitzbergen, where it cleared the ice and steamed home.

Probably the most important outcome of the expedition is the proof that there is no land near the pole and that the Polar Sea is not a shallow basin, free of ice, as has been supposed, but an ice-covered ocean of unusual depth.

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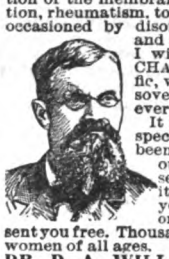
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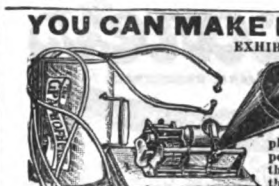


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Address ILLUSTRATED FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.

A Pig Hunt in the Dark.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.)

until we drove him out of it, when wounded perhaps by the shot, and held by Lockjaw, we might rush in and finish him off at close quarters. As the bunch of fern in which the animal lay was small, by firing into it, H. was almost certain to hit him before long; and the event quickly verified our anticipations, for scarcely had the sharp crack of the second shot rattled away into the hills, when out shambled the great beast, evidently hit hard. The glimmer of daylight was now in the sky, and in the half light an ugly customer looked the shaggy, grizzled, high-shouldered brute. The moment he appeared a little bull terrier, near whom he emerged, rushed at him. Alas! alas! poor little "Grip." One quick jerk sideways and upwards of the powerful snout and the wretched little dog is pitched aside, and lies howling with mingling rage and agony. "Hold him, Lockjaw!" No need for the order; Grip's diversion has given him a splendid chance. In a moment his iron jaws have closed like a rat trap on the ear of his prey, and every sinew in his muscular body is tense as wire rope as he sets his feet forward and tugs backward to hold the boar. But despite all his efforts the pig is surely and steadily dragging him into the creek, where, half choked with water, the dog will be forced to relinquish his hold. There is no time to be lost; the Malay and I rush forward, and about two feet from the edge of the water I get a swinging blow with my axe at the rough monster. Impeded by the dogs, who, though all useless in such a tussle except Lockjaw, are prancing and barking round the two real combatants—I miss my aim at the animal's skull, but the keen axe striking him just behind the shoulders, goes through to his backbone with a shock that staggers him. The next minute dogs and pig are struggling in the shallow water of the creek, Lockjaw still hanging on to his deadly grip. Daggo quickly plunges in after them; the water is only up to his knees and soon the boar, faint with loss of blood and half drowned, receives the *coup de grace* from the Malay's keen and dexterous knife. With some difficulty Lockjaw is persuaded to loose his hold, and the huge carcass dragged out of the brook that is stained with its blood, H. and I drew a long breath as we gaze on our lifeless prize, on which prize, on which Daggo calmly sits as he recovers his wind. Poor Dennis, whose knee, it turns out, is badly sprained, limps up, and vindictively shakes his fist at his unconscious and prostrate foe; while the native, as he surveys his fellow servant, grins evidently with an unholy joy at his rival's recent discomfiture, and his present lugubrious aspect. The beast is soon skinned and cleaned, the hide on some parts of his body being nearly an inch thick. As the sun rises we carry our dismembered victim up to the house, and the pork chops have soon become a reality instead of an expectation, and so ended "A pig hunt in the dark."

I may as well add that the poor little bull terrier, though we did all that experience had taught us for him, lingered but a few hours. The sharp tusk had ripped him up like a knife, from the beginning of the flank up to the hip joint, and nothing could probably have saved him. Lockjaw, too, received a nasty wound in the shoulder, which made him limp for many a day, and added another scar to the many similar decorations he already sported as evidence of his prowess.

Petroleum as a Fuel.



IS said that petroleum is fast coming into use as a fuel in the war-ships of the great naval Powers. In 1893 Italian warships carried a supply of astaki in addition to their ordinary fuel, while many of their torpedo boats were fitted to use it exclusively. England has made great strides in the use of petroleum as a fuel, while Russia comes in as a close second. The latter country, with its enormous supplies of petroleum, finds it an exceedingly cheap and convenient fuel.

The advantages of its use as a fuel are, first—a reduction in the weight and volume of combustible material required for a given horsepower in the engines; second, the oil can be stored, at least partially, below water out of the reach of the shells; third, there is no fear of spontaneous combustion of the oil, such as occasionally occurs with coal, and being free from sulphur the oil is not likely to deteriorate the boiler shells or tubes; fourth, the operation of "firing," so difficult with coal, is extremely easy with petroleum, and once the draught is properly adjusted there is no belching of flame from the funnel of the boat to warn the enemy of its whereabouts in a night attack. The furnace doors can be kept closed also, thus avoiding the rush of cold air on the boilers, and their consequent cooling off at a critical moment.

WOMEN OF NOTE.

The wife of Li Hung Chang is said to have two thousand gowns. She has a thousand ladies in waiting.

Duse, the famous actress, was born in a railway carriage between Padua and Venice—therefore cannot know the place of her birth.

Patti has a unique fan, upon which nearly all of the European sovereigns have written their autographs, and sometimes their sentiments in addition. The Czar wrote: "Nothing brings peace like your song."

Queen Victoria has had nine children, and has lost two; she has had forty-one grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren. This makes sixty-three descendents living, as eight of her grandchildren have died and two great-grandchildren.

The receipts of Queen Victoria from the government, yearly, amount to nearly $3,000,000. Of this about $600,000 goes for salaries to her household, $60,000 for charities and bounties, $96,000 for pensions and annuities and $750,000 for miscellaneous expenses. She also receives $450,000 a year from the duchy of Lancaster.

Queen Victoria's good health is without doubt due to her careful diet. She takes a light breakfast, a hearty luncheon and a substantial tea, and at nine in the evening has dinner, of which she eats very sparingly and only of the most nutritious food. When she is transacting business, Her Majesty takes a cup of beef tea between her breakfast and lunch, or a glass of milk with a beaten egg and a little sherry.

It is stated on good authority that of all the money earned by Bernhardt during her stage career, nothing remains to her but a modest dwelling on the Breton island. There she spends her days in crab-catching, fishing and shooting and forgets the words for a few months in each year. The chateau is a very primitive affair, having been at one time a fort guarded by forty men. Enormous boulders surround the house and the waves rage about them; no habitation is near, and yet the divine Sarah spends much of her time here, miles from her beloved Paris.

The personal attendants of the Czarina must be clever with the needle, to be of use when needed. The life of a lady about a court is not that of a butterfly, as some may imagine. She has to be able to read aloud well, and also to be proficient in cooking—as the every-day dinner menu is usually composed by a lady in waiting. The costume is of oriental magnificence, consisting of a white satin robe falling from the shoulders to the feet and fastened in front by buttons studded with gems. Over this a cloak of red velvet heavily embroidered with gold, is worn, and on the head rests the national Russian cap, which is called "kakochnik," made of crimson velvet thickly studded with jewels, and from the crown of which hangs a veil of white tulle. The Czarina allows no smoking among her ladies in waiting.

A White Baboon.



MOST of us are familiar with polar bears and Arctic foxes, and such as saw the sacred, so-called "white" elephant of Burmah remember how sadly disappointed they were when in the presence of this mud-colored idol. Here, however, is another animal, a baboon, that justly may be called white. Both the skin and hair of this creature are absolutely white. It does not hale from the Arctic regions but from the Transvaal where it was captured, after an exciting chase, by some Trek Boers near the Murchisa Range, Johannesburg, South Africa. The specimen is of the male species, and stands just four feet high; it is particularly restless and savage. Our picture is from a photograph taken at feeding-time.

Can you use three dollars every day? If so, see back page of this paper.

Half-past six is an excellent hour for a morning walk in Cuba.

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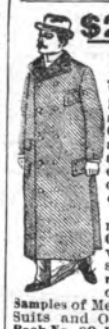
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A NARROW ESCAPE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JESSIE JORDAN.

THE following truthful story, related to me by the principal actor, will serve to illustrate some of the dangers to which those brave and determined spirits, who pave the way where others may live in peace and safety, are exposed.



"About twenty years ago, a party of ex-mormons settled in one of those fertile valleys in the region of Denver. Much of the government land was unoccupied at that time, and a cattle company sent about five thousand head of cattle into this valley in charge of several cowboys.

"The lawless gang who had settled the region did not like to share the pasturage with any others, and they trumped up an accusation of horse-stealing against the cowboys, and a gang of them seized three of the boys and took them to a place where a Justice's office occupied one end of a building, and a saloon the other, upon pretence of giving them a trial.

"Previous to taking their prisoners to the Justice, they rode up to the tent occupied by the boys, filled it with bullet holes and stampeded the cattle, which scattered in every direction over the mountains and through the valleys and canyons.

"I had been invited to join in the pursuit of the alleged horse thieves, but knowing the character of the men engaged in it, I declined, saying I wanted nothing to do with vigilance committees; but when I heard that they had captured the boys, I requested them to do nothing rash or unjust, but to give them a fair trial.

"My entreaties were received with derision, and before morning the three prisoners were no more, and those remaining fled from the country and never returned. For several months the herds were allowed to remain where they were, but at the end of that time the men who had been so active in punishing the alleged crime, started out and gathered up the stock, and men who had never owned a hoof in their lives from this time became cattle men.

"I had knowledge of all these circumstances, but I was no party to the illegal proceedings and had protested against them. These facts, aided perhaps by the memory of "Mountain Meadows," made them feel unsafe while I lived and ominous threats and accusations frequently reached me.

"At length I sent word that upon a certain day I would appear at the office of the Justice, and requested that the accusation be put in legal form and a fair trial given me. At the appointed time I went there, taking five trusty companions with me. We waited till nearly dark, but not one of my accusers appeared.

"We were about ten miles from home and concluded to stay where we were till morning. Some of the boys began to patronize the bar pretty freely, and at length a young fellow employed about the establishment beckoned me to come out. I followed him a short distance from the house and he said excitedly:

"'Hardy, *don't let those boys drink another drop. That whiskey is drugged, and just as sure as you come under the influence of it, you are all dead men!* I was right here when those other boys were executed, and they were all in a helpless state of unconsciousness when it was done.'

"Thanking him for his timely warning, I called the boys out and cautioned them, and they all quit drinking to the apparent displeasure of the bar-tender.

"We retired to the other room and prepared to pass the night together. Four of our party lay down upon the floor to sleep, while with a trusty comrade I prepared to keep a vigilant watch.

"It must have been about three o'clock in the morning when all was silent save the regular breathing of the sleepers, that I heard the sound of stealthy footsteps outside. The light had been purposely turned low, and I cautiously approached the window and looked out into the darkness. By the dim light of the stars I saw a number of men step from the shelter of the trees and stealthily approach the house.

"They paused in the shadow of the building and held a suppressed conversation.

"'They've come,' I whispered to my companion.

"'I know it,' he answered. 'Shall I wake the boys?'

"'No,' I replied, 'they will make a noise and I want to



let them think they are coming upon us unawares. Are you ready?'

"'Yes,' he answered hoarsely, but although I could detect the tremor of excitement in his voice, I knew that he was no coward.

"I could tell by the steady shuffling of muffled feet that the villains had removed their boots and were fast filling the adjoining room. There was neither lock nor bar upon the intervening door, and its only fastening, beside an ordinary latch, was a bench, which we had placed against it.

"I heard a whispered consultation, followed by the uncoiling of a rope, and our hearts beat audibly, as with every nerve strung to the utmost tension we listened to the ominous preparation, and knew that every second brought us nearer to a desperate encounter against fearful odds.

"At length some one lifted the latch and cautiously pushed against the door.

"The time had come, and in an instant I had emptied my six-shooters into it, and a scene of the wildest excitement and confusion followed.

"Suddenly startled from their slumbers, the boys sprang to their feet with excited exclamations, demanding the cause of the uproar in the adjoining room, where the cowardly mob were struggling to reach the outside door, tumbling over one another, uttering loud and angry curses in their fear and confusion, and blocking the way in their disorderly retreat, while their excitement was every instant increased by the bullets which we sent whizzing through the door.

"'Open the door and let us out among you, you cowardly pack of midnight assassins! Show your faces and let us see who you are!' shouted my companion, emphasizing every sentence with a revolver shot in the direction of the retreating desperadoes.

"In less than five minutes from the firing of the first bullet, all was silent save the excited breathing of our own men; the villains had fled from the house and sought refuge in the darkness, but with what further intentions we did not know.

"'Boys, we've had a visit from Judge Lynch and his jury; what they'll do next is impossible to tell,' I said as the last sound died away.

"'We know what *we'll* do if they return,' was the decisive reply, and with weapons ready for instant use, we waited for the dawn.

"But our enemies came not to fight; they expected to find defenseless men, and they made no further demonstration.

"'When are you going to try it again?' I asked the bar-keeper after daylight appeared and we stepped from the room where we had passed the night.

"The face of the man was pale with fear and guilt, but in trembling tones, he protested his innocence.

"'Don't stand there and *lie!* you mean, despicable sneaking cowardly coyote,' said one of the boys indignantly, 'but tell us the truth. What did they agree to give you to drug us past all power of resistance, when they came with their murderous intentions?'

"The man shook like a leaf, and still protested his innocence.

"'Are you willing that we should serve you to a dish of the same sauce that you intended for us?' asked his questioner.

"The villain sank upon his knees and begged for mercy.

"'Get up! you contemptible wretch!' I said. 'We are no cowards to murder a man when we are six to one—even if he does deserve it. But I tell you to be careful hereafter,' and we left him to reflect upon his own situation.

"This was only the beginning of my persecution. Members of that gang were upon my track for years, and may be yet for all that I know."

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D. W. Thompson, of Santa Barbara, Cal., has a saddle which is valued at $4,000. The silver and gold used in its decoration are alone worth $250.

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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

HILL'S RHEUMATISM AND GOUT CURE; greatest of remedies; one bottle cures you HILL MEDICINE CO., 38 E. 19th St., New York, N. Y. Send for circular.

$25 REWARD for a case of Constipation that Neurotico Tea will not cure. 25c. a package. NEUROTICO MED. CO., Hornellsville, N. Y.

PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. Botot, Box 978, Augusta, Me.



MIZPAH PESSARY
An unexcelled Uterine Supporter.
The center tube holds it in position, and it cannot become misplaced, It is soft, light, and comfortable, easily placed in position, and just as easily removed. Ask your Druggist, or send for descriptive circular to WALTER F. WARE, 512 Arch St., Phila.



TEA SET FREE
56 PIECES.
Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 56 piece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept F, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.



"I had indigestion and dyspepsia, the doctors said, but I do not know what was the matter. I only know that I almost suffered death, especially when at a delicate period, my bowels were bad, and I had such pains in my back of a morning I could hardly get out of bed. When I had taken Ripans Tabules for two weeks, as directed, I was a new person. These are facts, and my friends can say the same."

The above words are from a letter written by a young lady of Holton, La., whose cousin recommended the Tabules.

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

SILVER CAKE BASKET FREE FREE



We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have [illegible] of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!
The Comical Mirror.



A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.



GRAND OFFER TO YOU. Send us 12 cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; for 27 cents we will send you the paper 3 months and three mirrors all paid; or, for only 76 cents we will send the paper a whole year and one dozen mirrors by express. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE holiday season being now a thing of the past for a twelvemonth, we can turn our attention to our own needs, which have been somewhat neglected in trying to show our goodwill toward our friends.

There are many people who do not know that they can buy perfumed silks, which may be used in numberless ways. For the lining of bureau drawers this is especially desirable, as it takes up none of the space and yet imparts to the contents a delicate odor. Glove and handkerchief cases may be made of this silk much more easily than when interlined with batting upon which powdered sachet is used. All of the desirable odors may be obtained, and usually the lavender, violet, rose and heliotrope silks are scented with the flower of the same name; the white silks have either the white rose or white lilac odor.

Pincushions this season are very peculiar in shape, reminding one somewhat of a sausage. We have for sometime had the long and narrow cushion, but to have one narrow and as long as the dresser is *wide*, is something new, and, it must be admitted, not as attractive as those of smaller shape; however, it is one of the fads. These cushions are made of satin and trimmed with a full ruffle of lace or gauze ribbon, finished by a narrow beading of lace into which is run baby ribbon which finishes off at each corner in a rosette made of numberless loops of the ribbon. When one is expert at water color painting, or, if not expert can do



ONE OF THE NEW CUSHIONS.

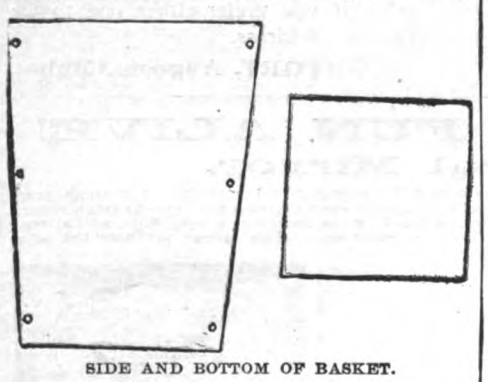
ordinary work, the flowers on the lace used may be colored and so add greatly to the beauty of the article. Gauze ribbons in all the delicate tones may be used for the ruffles instead of lace, and are particularly pretty on the square cushions. This ribbon comes in five-inch depth, and when pleated fully around the edge of the cushion makes a very pretty finish, as it stands out pertly, being a little stiffer than lace. A yellow gauze ribbon covered with yellow or white polka dots and having a satin edge is one of the prettiest used, and the top of the cushion may be covered with a piece of the same, put on before the ruffle, or the top of cushion may be left plain and a small lace mat used. This latter plan is perhaps the better, as the mat can be laundered without disturbing the ruffle.

We illustrate herewith a scrap basket, particularly appropriate for chamber, nursery or sewing room. The one here shown is covered with china silk in pink morning glory pattern, and is lined with light blue paper—but denim could be used equally well. The silk, however, being thin and soft, is pliable and more easily kept in place with paste than the heavier material, and when four baskets can be covered with fifty-two inches of thirty-inch silk, it cannot be called expensive.



To make one of these baskets get cardboard an eighth of an inch thick. Cut with a sharp knife four pieces to measure eleven inches on each side, nine inches across the top and seven inches across the bottom. Cut one piece seven inches square. This is for the bottom.

Cut four pieces of silk of same shape as the four pieces of cardboard, but one inch larger all around. Lay a piece of silk on a table, and a piece of the cardboard onto it, and turn over and paste down all four edges. Flour paste is the best to use. Have some good, heavy, unglazed paper, of color to harmonize with the material used on the outside, and cut four pieces one-half inch smaller all round than the cardboard. After the silk is firmly pasted onto each piece, paste one of the pieces of paper onto the inside. Treat the square of cardboard in same manner, but use paper for both sides of it. Make three holes through each side of four pieces, and tie the pieces together with



SIDE AND BOTTOM OF BASKET.

narrow ribbon. The bottom of the basket is fastened only on one side.

After the sides are tied together, stand the basket up and lay the bottom into it, about one-half inch from the lowest edge, and on one side of the bottom paste a strip of the heavy paper, a continuation of the same piece extending for a couple of inches up one of the sides of the basket. This will hold it in place, and will also act as a hinge,—for the basket may be closed flat by shutting the bottom up against the side to which it is hinged, and then the sides will flatten together and so condense into the size of one of the sides. This makes it convenient for laying away in a drawer, or for packing to send away.

Here are a few suggestions from a reader who is interested in our corner:

"*Don't* hermetically seal all the sunny windows in your house, with outside and inside shutters, shades, sash curtains, lace draperies, and heavy, silk-lined over draperies, and then wonder why your children are so pale, feeble and fretful.

"*Don't*, little woman, scold because your father cannot afford to have your bedroom "done over" for you, and new furniture put in. Buy a quart of paint, a brush and a little turpentine, put on a big sleeved apron and an old pair of gloves, and paint the woodwork yourself. Scrape the paint from the dingy old furniture, buy another pot of white paint, and still another of white enamel, and transform the old bedroom set. For window draperies get white muslin flowered with chrysanthemums woven through it. Embroider the chrysanthemums in pink, line your curtains with pink silkoline and tie them back with pink satin ribbons. Use more of the same material for covers for dressing-case, table and washstand, and for spread and pillow shams for the bed. Paper the walls with an inexpensive white and gold paper, cover the floor with Japanese matting with a bit of a rug here and there, and you have a room fit for a queen."

You can easily make three dollars a day working for us. See the back page of this paper.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

The summer of 1898 will go on record in the eastern states as the hottest one experienced for at least a quarter of a century.

LADIES I Make Big Wages —At Home— and want all to have the same opportunity. It's VERY PLEASANT work and will easily pay $18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will Gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. Mrs. A. H. Wiggins, Box 18, Lawrence, Mich.

IT WON'T COST YOU A CENT

Always Sold for $7.00 January Clearing Price **$2.98**



to examine this cape and assure yourself that in quality, value and price, **A Greater Bargain** was never heard of. Made in latest style of genuine **Black Astrakan Cloth,** lined with best quality sateen, 24 inches long, trimmed around collar and front with **Fine Black Russian Thibet Fur.** Large storm collar, clearing price **$2.98**

Give neck and bust measure when ordering. Will send cape C. O. D. try it on and if you find it exactly as represented and **Cheaper Than Any Other House Dares to Offer** pay the agent $2.98 and charges and the cape is yours or will forward cape by mail upon receipt of price and 40 cents postage. Money cheerfully refunded if not satisfactory.

FREE our beautifully illustrated Catalogue No. 31, of Capes, Jackets, Suits, Skirts, Waists, Furs, Childrens' Cloaks, etc., at January clearing prices.

M. PHILIPSBORN, 138 State St., CHICAGO

Please mention COMFORT when you write.



$30 MACHINES, $13.25.

The celebrated 3-drawer Hines Sewing Machine has been reduced to $13.25. Just think of it! Furnished with best bent cover, complete set of attachments and guaranteed for 20 years. Our Immense Catalogues tells of many similar bargains in Furniture, Carpets, Draperies, Bedding, Crockery, Stoves, Baby Carriages, Refrigerators, Clocks, Silverware, Upholstery Goods, Mirrors, Pictures, Lamps, etc., and are mailed Free. We are saving money for 1,500,000 customers. Why not for you? Address

JULIUS HINES & SON, Baltimore, Md. Dept.



4 BUGGY WHEELS $6.50

HIGH GRADE, SARVEN'S PATENT, tired and banded, height 3ft. 4 in., 4 ft. 8 in. or 4 ft. Spokes 1 1-16 or 1 1-8 in. For any other sizes send for catalogue. Cut this ad out and send to us with ONE DOLLAR, state size wheel wanted, and we will send them by freight C. O. D. EXAMINETHEM at your freight depot and then pay freight agent balance, $5.50, and freight charges.

WE SELL Buggy Tops at **$6.95,** Wagon Umbrellas, **$1.50,** Ironed Buggy Poles, painted, **$3.25,** Ironed Buggy Shafts, painted, **$2.00,** Ironed Neck yokes, each **35c.,** Ironed Wagon Singletrees, **17c., 19c.** and **27.,** Ironed Wagon Eveners, each, **42c.,** Trimmed Buggy Neck yokes, **35c.,** Top Buggies, **$23.95** and up. Send for Free Catalogue.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

DETECTIVE. Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders; no experience necessary. For full particulars write **American Detective Ass'n, Indianapolis, Ind.**

GOLD OMETOR for locating Gold, Silver and other minerals. In a pocket case. Also Rods and Spanish needles. Circular 2c. stamp. **B. G. STAUFFER, Harrisburg, Pa.**

SURPRISE REVOLVER



The greatest hit of the year. A perfect imitation of **six shooter revolver.** By pressing small rubber bulb discharges stream of pure water. You can have more fun with this cute gun than with a box of live monkeys and no harm in the joke. **Every one laughs** and you can have 500 good jokes a day. **Selling like wild fire.** Get one at once and have a pile of fun with your friends. Sent postpaid with a three months' trial subscription for only six cents; or 5 for 22 cents.

PREMIUM OFFER. Send us 27 cents for a trial yearly subscription and we will send you two Surprise Revolvers, charges all prepaid.

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

WANTED RELIABLE MEN

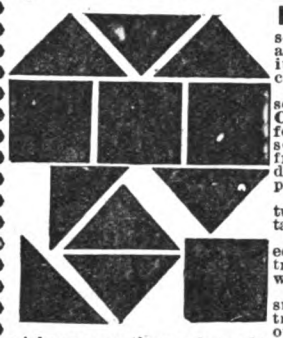
We want at once reliable men in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; **$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES** not to exceed $2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars.

THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

USED STAMPS WANTED

$5.00 to $20.00 per 100 Paid for used or cancelled U. S. postage stamps **of the sorts used to-day.** Higher prices paid for **old stamps.** Here is a chance where any person can actually earn money easily, gathering used stamps. Send 10 cents for price list, so you can begin collecting stamps and selling them without delay. Address **Reliable Stamp Concern Dept. C 168 Elm St., New York City.**

$50.00 GOLD GIVEN AWAY!



HERE IS A PUZZLE. We will give **Fifty Dollars in Gold** to any person who will cut out the black pieces shown in this advertisement and paste them on a blank piece of paper so as to form a square. **Try it!** The money will be paid April 15th, 1899; if more than one successful contestant the money will be equally divided.

The only condition is that every person sending in their name must sell for us **24** of our **Arc-Light Electric Lamp Wicks** at **Five Cents each** and return to us **$1.20** for same, and as a premium for selling the wicks we will give a beautiful **Gold Filled Ring,** set with an imported stone, which will puzzle an expert to distinguish from a genuine diamond **which would sell for $100.00;** if a different premium is desired a selection can be made from our large premium list sent you with the wicks.

No money required in advance, send for wicks, sell them and return $1.20, and any premium selected will be promptly sent; we will take the wicks back if you cannot sell them.

Our wicks are something entirely new, they give a light nearly equal to the Electric Light, being chemically treated with carbon by means of which the white electric light is attained.



Burns one year, no trimming required, no smoke, making kerosene light equal to electricity. Do not confound our wicks with any of the so-called everlasting or indestructible wicks now on the market, which are simply fakes. If you sell the first lot more will be sent if desired, and we will allow you a handsome cash commission for selling them. **If you do not wish to contest for the prize, we should be pleased to have you order wicks and sell them to secure the premium.** Write to-day and we will send the first lot promptly.

Address, THE ARC-LIGHT CO., Box 5308, BOSTON, MASS.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!

Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.



No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph** of **medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. **FREE.**

This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND

A FAMILY BIBLE FOR $1.89.

DELIVERED AT YOUR HOME.



This edition excels all others in the excellence of paper and exquisite topography, being printed from an entirely new set of plates costing $20,000. The size of page is 12x9 inches, the print large and clear, and there are TEN BEAUTIFUL FULL-PAGE PHOTOGRAVURE PICTURES of rare artistic excellence and some of the **most superb masterpieces of Modern Paintings,** being in harmony with the justly celebrated OXFORD TEACHERS' BIBLES. They are bound in fine **Morocco Buckram Paneled Sides,** and contain the Old and New Testaments, authorized version, the best concordance extant, and the following helpful features: A table of the passages in the Old Testament quoted in the New; a Chronological Index; an analysis of the Old and New Testaments; an account of the date of writing the books of the New Testament; an index of the Holy Bible; a short description of the Holy Land; a table of kindred forbidden to marry; table of Scripture weights and measures; an alphabetical table of proper names; also a very neat, plain **Marriage Certificate and Family Record.** Our New Bible is just what the people want; excellent paper, handsome illustrations, good, clear print, handsome and durable bindings, and last but not least, an EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY RECORD, entirely different from that contained in any other Bibles in the country. The print is of large size, clear and distinct, just right for grandfather and grandmother to read without their glasses, while the full-page engravings will interest and instruct the little children. It is the book for every member of the family.

Our price by mail or express, charges fully paid to your post-office, is only $1.89. Only think of it! A Bible, 12x9 inches, weighing more than four pounds, for $1.89! In addition to the Bible we will give a year's subscription to this paper; or raise a club of eight subscribers at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, or a club of 16 at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, and we will send it free as a premium. Address **GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.**



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE old adage 'fingers were made before forks,'" says a reader of this department, "receives apt illustration in the table manners of the Neapolitan *lazzarani*, or beggars. While in Naples some years ago, I paid a visit to a restaurant frequented by these gentry.

"Plunging down a steep flight of stone steps, I found myself in a long low cellar. It was dimly lighted by a few small bracket lamps burning rancid olive oil. Running almost the entire length of the apartment was a wide board, nailed to stanchions set in the bare earth. This board was quite innocent of covering, and around it, seated on little tripod stools, was gathered a motley horde of men. Before each person stood a wooden bowl, and these bowls constituted the entire table furniture. At the farther end of the room a very dirty curtain screened the mysteries of the kitchen from vulgar gaze.

"As I was interestedly noting these details, and listening to the Babel of sounds arising from around the board, a momentary hush fell upon the assemblage. From behind the curtain appeared a greasy, perspiring Italian, bearing in his arms a huge wooden vessel, resembling, as much as anything, an overgrown chopping tray. This individual was naked from the waist up, and was not the most savory looking attendant one could wish. He marched down one side of the table, and deposited his tray in the center of it. I then saw that it was filled with *yards* of steaming macaroni. Taking a long wooden fork, the man speared out great bunches of the slippery viand, and distributed them impartially among the score and more of bowls eagerly extended to him.



BUTTER BALLS.

"A scene at once ensued that was unique, amusing and repulsive. As soon as each person received his allotted portion he inserted the fingers of both hands in the bowl, and clutching a tangled mass of macaroni, held it aloft till the longest ends hovered just above his mouth. Then arrived the moment of his enjoyment. Opening his mouth to its utmost capacity, he lowered the ends of the macaroni into the yawning chasm, and with grunts of deepest satisfaction, slowly sucked in the glutinous mass until his fingers were empty.

"This peculiar operation was repeated again and again until the contents of the bowls were exhausted. Then, licking their fingers and chops in the most unctuous manner, the customers arose, one after the other, and crept lazily up into the street to look for some sunny nook in which to sleep away the afternoon. The meal had cost them each but two cents, and their slumbers certainly could not have been haunted by dreams of undue extravagance."

Now while this isn't the way in which *we* enjoy macaroni and spaghetti, we *do* enjoy it, and we give herewith some recipes for cooking this healthful and much liked food. We will use the word macaroni, but spaghetti may be used in exactly the same way, being made of the same ingredients—the only difference being in the size of the sticks.

BAKED MACARONI WITH CHEESE.

Boil three-fourths of a cup of macaroni in two quarts of boiling water and one teaspoonful salt, for twenty minutes, or until soft; drain in a strainer, pour over it cold water to prevent the pieces from adhering. Put a layer of the boiled macaroni into a buttered baking dish, sprinkle with grated cheese; repeat until dish is full; then pour over white sauce, cover with buttered crumbs, and bake until crumbs are brown.

WHITE SAUCE.

Melt two tablespoons butter, add two tablespoons flour with one-half teaspoon salt, and pour on slowly one and one-half cups scalded milk.

MACARONI WITH TOMATO SAUCE.

Reheat boiled macaroni in one and one-half cups tomato sauce, sprinkle with grated cheese and serve; or prepare as baked with cheese, using tomato sauce in place of white sauce.

TOMATO SAUCE.

One-half can tomatoes, one slice onion, three tablespoons butter, two and one-half tablespoons flour, one-fourth teaspoon salt, one-eighth teaspoon pepper. Cook onion with tomato fifteen minutes, rub through a strainer and add butter and flour, to which seasonings have been added; cook all together.



BUTTER PADDLES.

MACARONI ITALIENNE.

Three-fourths cup of macaroni; two quarts boiling water; one-half onion; two cloves; one and one-half cups tomato sauce; one-half cup grated cheese; two tablespoons wine and one-half tablespoon butter.

Cook macaroni in boiling salted water, with onion stuck with the cloves; drain, remove onion, reheat in tomato sauce, add butter, cheese and wine.

MACARONI a la MILANAISE.

Cook macaroni as above, reheat in tomato sauce, add six sliced mushrooms, two slices cooked smoked beef tongue cut in strips, and one-half cup grated cheese.

Macaroni is usually broken into short pieces, before cooking. Spaghetti is cooked in long strips; to accomplish this, hold the quantity to be cooked in the hand and dip the ends into the boiling water; as it softens it will bend, and may be coiled under the water.

So much for macaroni and spaghetti.

Now we want to speak of the daintiest and easiest way of serving butter at the table. So many people have a large piece of butter put on the table, and then some one has to neatly (or otherwise) cut this into small pieces for each individual. Avoid this trouble and at the same time add to the appearance of your table by having butter balls or pats made before the meal is served. Get a first-class pair of wooden paddles, costing fifty cents a pair; cheaper ones may be had, as cheap as ten cents, but they are not at all satisfactory, and as a pair of paddles lasts for years, fifty cents is not an extravagant price to pay for them.

To make the balls, put the paddles into a bowl of ice water until thoroughly chilled; then a piece of butter about the size of a walnut should be taken up on one paddle, and rolled with the other until it forms a dainty ball, all criss-crossed with dents from the indentations on the paddles. Drop the balls as fast as made into a bowl of ice water, and make a dozen or two at a time; if the family is small these will last two or three days and if kept in a bowl of ice water all the time will be as crisp and fresh as though made fresh for each meal.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

THE YANKEE FIRE-KINDLER Builds 100 Fires with 3c of oil. No kindlings. Warranted 3 years, Greatest Seller for Agents ever invented. Sample with terms prepaid, 15c. YANKEE KINDLER CO., OLNEY, ILL. 37, Sta. R.



HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.

WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to $3.25, the equal of switches that retail at $2.00 to $8.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, $2.25; 3½-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, $3.25. WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

FREE



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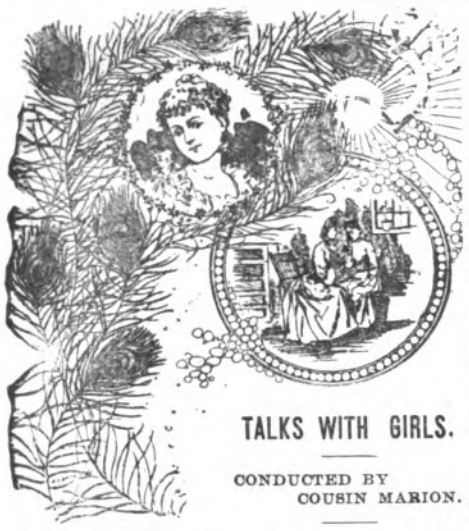
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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

Happy New Year to you all, my dears, this new year of 1899, with the next one the last of the nineteenth century; and Father Time keeps pushing along until he too shall have gone over the border into eternity to meet the millions who have preceded him. None of us can know what this New Year may bring to us in smiles or tears, but I know this, that to each and all of you who read these lines I wish all the good that may come to mortals, and pray earnestly that you may all hold yourselves worthy.

The first one to be answered in the new year is from an "Interested Reader" in the pleasant little town of Wellsville, Ohio, and she wants to know if she should give up a young man, whom she likes and who is all right except his lack of money, because her father wants her to get a richer man. I do not wish to counsel disobedience to parents, but in a case like this, I would risk a parent's displeasure rather than a life of unhappiness.

A Questioner, Greenleaf, Kans.—You ask more questions than I have room to answer, dear. I will say though that you can do very much towards conquering your bad temper if you will think for a minute, just one minute, before you speak, and then speak very slowly. That is the way to make people "love and admire" you, too, for if you speak carefully you will only say pleasant things of people.

Rosebud, Kempton, Ills.—Don't accept the young man you like very much when he is away, but don't when he is around. As it happens, a husband is around a good deal, and your married life would scarcely be a rhapsody under such circumstances.

Kathryn, Brownstown, Ind.—It does not make any difference how long the young fellow has been going with you, he ought to call you "Miss Kathryn." It is so much more like the old time politeness.

Backwoods, Squirrel Creek, Va.—A wedding breakfast is breakfast chiefly in name. It is really a luncheon, and the giver may use her own taste and judgment in serving it.

A Reader, Waynesburg, Ga.—The words of the song "Only Just to Say Farewell," which you submit, are in no sense poetry, as verse goes, but they are quite up to the modern sentimental song standard, and if you have good music, there is no reason why your song will not be fairly successful.

Dorothy, Ernestine and Carrie, Sylvan Center, Mich.—It is quite proper to accompany an older unmarried lady and her "gentleman friend"—but don't for goodness' sake say "gentleman friend"—to an entertainment if they are willing. (2) It is just as well for girls of sixteen not to accept presents from men. (3) Put off the buggy riding and the boat riding and the smiling at young men until you are older and out of school. Kids of sixteen are not the wisest creatures in the world.

S. D. J. Dana.—There is really no use for you to waste postage on writing about money awaiting American heirs in England, but if you will do it, send your inquiry to Secretary, Embassy of the United States, London, Eng.

Peach Blossom, Starfield, Mo.—If the young man is a "sport" as you say, which of course cannot be nice, you had better let him pass. If he is in love with you he ought to say so, whether he is a "sport" or not. (2) The sentences you quote are common cheap slang, that don't mean anything much better.

S. R. M., Hansonville, Va.—It is customary and correct, when an engagement is broken, to return all letters. And do not follow them with a "saucy" letter. (2) It is not correct with a young man you never saw.

Green Eye, San Bernadino, Cal.—You will never be happy on earth if you let yourself be foolishly jealous. Let the young man call on other girls if he wants to. If you cannot trust him how can you possibly love him? And why shouldn't other young men call on you? You will have a lovely married life if you begin in this way.

M. F., St. Paul, Minn.—When a man squeezes a lady's hand in a dance, it means that he is ready for a flirtation and should be frowned down at once. I believe most men do it, whenever they get a chance.

Sweet Marie, Rockville, Ind.—A suitable present for a young man at Christmas or any time is an umbrella, a scarf pin, some little silver match safe or other pocket utensil, or something to meet any especial taste he may have.

Detroit Girl, Detroit, Mich.—Step-children cannot marry, even though they have not been brought up together. The daughter of a widower, who marries a widow with a son, might marry the son, but not nearer than that.

M. E. D., Wilmington, N. C.—I know nothing of the companies you mention, but it is just as well to be sure you are going to get something for your money before you give it up. Everybody is after money, and if you have any, hold on to it until you see its equivalent coming.

Clementine, Tyler, Mich.—It is a beautiful thing to wait for the one you love until he is ready to marry, but it is not so beautiful to be fooled. Your own sense and knowledge must teach you something in such a case. (2) No, I would not advise a girl to marry a man who tells her he will be affectionate enough after he is married. Marriage doesn't always make people affectionate.

Miss Zoe, Independence, Iowa.—An escort may be invited into your house if it is still early in the evening. (2) He should not stop at the gate, but go to the door with you. (3) There is no set form of speech to be used in asking to extend any courtesy. (4) Reds are more becoming to brunettes, but nearly any color is becoming if not too pronounced. (5) Ask any druggist for a good hair tonic. One is about as good as another. (6) There is no cure for a "spooney" young man. Marriage sometimes helps to change him for the better, but he will nearly always be silly. And usually it isn't his wife who is the object of it. (7) If you can't talk to your company and he is stupid, I can't tell you what to do. (8) Yes, your girl friend's "beau" may bring a friend of his to call on you, if she comes with him, seeing that you do not know him. (9) As a rule the man should precede the woman, unless she knows the way better, as for instance going to her pew in church. (10) Yes, a lady may accept the escort of a gentleman home whom she has never met more than once, if he is the proper person for her to know.

Delia, Ottumwa, Iowa.—Consult a physician. (2) To reach an author write a letter to him or her in care of the periodical in which you saw the name. It will be forwarded.

Music, Paris, Ills.—You might be of great assistance to your mother if you left school; and if you read carefully, you might not miss the school so much. Home employment, that will pay anything, is hard to get, and as for finding a millionaire who will give you a musical education, I fear that is utterly hopeless.

Lackie, Marksville, La.—You are of the brunette type, judging from the hair. (2) As to the young man, nothing can be done unless his own heart directs him to you. I believe in the efficacy of prayer, but not in making a man love where he doesn't want to. A heart is not to be won, though it—or the person in which it is located—is frequently bought. Are you poor? (3) Mourning is usually worn two years.

Annie and Bell, St. Paul, Minn.—Yes, it is proper to accept the attentions of one man and correspond with another, provided no engagement exists. (2) Simply accept the offer of his company and no more. Use a little common sense. (3) It is not quite the best form for a man to walk between two ladies, though if they both want to take his arms, he will have to. (4) It is quite proper to accept a present from a man to whom you are not engaged.

P. D. F., Zanesville, Ohio.—As I have said a thousand times I repeat, there is no way to win a man's love. What do you want with it if it is not yours from the heart, freely? (2) No, it is not correct to skate with any man who may ask you? It is all right if you know him—if he is all right. (3) Dear, dear, so you think a girl's life is a life of trouble, do you? And you want to be a man? Well, do you think it is all of life to be a man? When you have lived to be fifty and have met a hundred or more men, you will begin to find out that they are not much happier than the women are. The only people who don't complain are the dead ones.

Maud and Mary, Charlotte, Ills.—It is proper to ask your "beau" to supper on Sunday evening; he must go home at ten o'clock; you should not kiss him good night; he should not call oftener than once a week.

Gladys and Muriel, Tiskilwa, Ills.—"Tedstrum" sounds as if it were a Scandinavian name. (3) What cousin will tell these two what the National flower of Germany is?

That is all for this time. The new year starts out well among the inquiring minds, and let us hope that in this year much good may come to all concerned in this column. By-by, cousins dear.

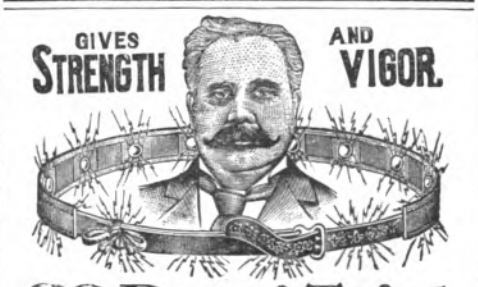
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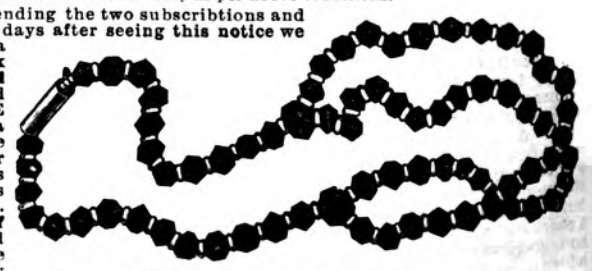
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Dogs That Work For a Living.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NOTHING seems more foreign to the nature of the dog as we know him, than work. To those of us who live in cities indeed, he presents himself at once as a pet, and an important factor in our daily lives. Before the mind's eye rises an army of ribboned and jewelled and blanketed creatures, the occupants of our softest cushions, the playmates of our children, the street escort of our ladies, the beloved and cherished household darling, too often the household tyrant. Not only does he pervade our homes and partake of our joys and sorrows, but he has set up his kingdom in our literature in all varieties of character and of all degrees of social standing, from the cringing monstrosity of the slums, faithfully following Bill Sikes in his criminal career, to the dainty, aristocrat Jip, ruling the Copperfield menage as only a winsome, exacting little beastie can; moreover in our art he is so popular that at least one great painter owed much of his fame to him, and in the drama, Jefferson's "Schneider" has made his name a household word.

Not only is the dog an inseparable companion to civilized man, but the two races sustain close relationship to each other all over the world, so that we can hardly imagine man living without the dog, and we cannot conceive of the dog without man. Not all of this great company however can be called pets. Many and diverse are the uses to which man puts his tractable and faithful fourfooted friend, but most of them are so entirely in the line of the animal's own tastes that they can be characterized only as play. Indeed in most cases he has himself indicated the duties he prefers, selected—as it were—which of the several professions open to canine intelligence he will adopt. A dog, it is true, may be trained in uncongenial ways, but he will never achieve in them the success that awaits him in a self-chosen career.

To guard his master's life, and protect his property against all despoilers; to accompany him on the hunt; to point out the game, and collect the spoils of the gun; or to aid with his own savage weapons; who can doubt that these are great pleasures to him, entirely underserving the name of work. The dog of St. Bernard also, who wanders about in the snow and storm, bearing his little barrel of brandy, and seeking the lost and helpless traveler, though he performs most valuable service, still is only doing what he delights in.

Yet dogs who actually labor, who are trained and supported solely to perform certain work, are not rare, though we may not have thought of them as workers. Almost with the beginning of man's own labor, began the labor of the dog in his service. Before the days of historical records, far back of the earliest books, the dog was in common use as shepherd, not only taking care of those singularly weak minded and irresponsible creatures, protecting them from their animal foes and their own foolish indiscretion, but driving or leading them back and forth between their feeding ground and their fold. He is referred to in this way in one of the oldest parts of the Bible, the book of Job. So long and so faithfully has the dog done this work that there is perhaps no country on the globe where sheep are kept in any numbers, that he is not found as their guardian. Yet it is well known that it is his nature to worry and destroy sheep.

Darwin found dogs at nearly the extreme southern point of South America performing this task well, and saving to their masters the cost of several men. These animals were trained by being separated from their kind and placed with the sheep in puppyhood, and thus becoming so attached to them as to have no desire to leave them, feeling indeed much more at home with them than with other dogs. In one respect they were to be pitied, they had no youth. The playfulness of their early months was quickly crushed out, because frolic that is play to a puppy is death to sheep. The four-footed shepherd of Scotland is familiar through a thousand stories of his fidelity, and his more than human sagacity, and the dog of Lapland, though not so well known to us, is none the less faithful and intelligent in his care of the immense herds of reindeer which form his master's possessions.

Not only was the dog made useful in the arts of peace, but he was early impressed into the practices of war congenial to many of his race. In the Conquest of America, the Spaniards introduced as powerful aids to the subjugation of the South Americans, fierce bloodhounds and savage mastiffs trained to fight in ranks, and wherever they appeared the native races were almost exterminated. The bloodhounds accompanying one Spanish Commander are estimated to have killed in one year in Cuba four thousand natives. One of these animals would fly at an Indian, as a terrier flies at a rat, and kill him almost as quickly. One savage beast in particular was so valued for his exploits in this line, that he wore a coat of mail, drew the pay of one of the lower officers, and rode horseback to the battlefield, to be fresh for his terrible work. The death of this animal was a fitting close to such a life, although in justice to the dog we must admit that not he, but his masters were the guilty ones. The natives of course hated him heartily, and a large reward was offered to whoever would kill him. For a long time no one succeeded because of his mail, but at last a good marksman shot an arrow in his eye and ended his career. It is said that the famous and fierce Aragon hounds of Northern Mexico are descendants of this breed.

The fighting of dogs with each other for amusement or for money, has always been a favorite entertainment among the more brutal of men, and is even to this day, though it has now to be enjoyed in secret, for the intelligence and the humanity of the civilized world is severely against it.

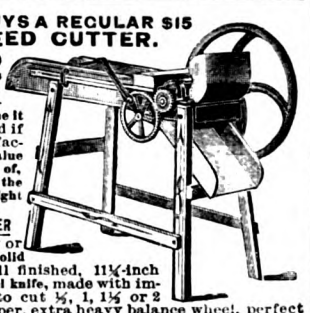
An early work to which dogs were trained in England was dancing and performing in shows. Mention is made of dancing dogs in the seventeenth century, and they were nothing new then, and at the beginning of the last century we read of the "Ball of Little Dogs" who danced before Queen Anne. Since that time they have been taught to play a complete drama, one to their taste of course, and even down to our day a troop of canine performers is a common adjunct to a circus or menagerie.

More serious and less agreeable because there was no honor or applause attached to it, was the work of turning the spit by which our ancestors in "Merrie England" roasted their beef, and many an unwilling dog was forced to perform that service. To carry dispatches in times of war, and to follow the track of a robber or criminal, are tasks too congenial to be classed as labor. The same may be said also of the brutal sport of bull baiting, of which our modern bulldog is the product and constant reminder, and of the sickening feats of the terriers of our day in the "rat pit." We occasionally see in our own streets a canine laborer drawing a cart or leading a blind man, and we hear of dogs in the country forced to work a churn, and read of others trained to smuggle laces which are wound closely around their slim bodies, and covered with other dog skins sewed over them. We know also of cases where dogs assist in police duty, and connect themselves with the city fire department; and there is said to be at this moment a dog in New York who regularly works a blacksmith's bellows; but these cases are rare, and the work demanded is not usually regular or severe.

Although this animal has played so important and so varied a part in the history of mankind, though he has been worshipped by some races, and used as a worthy sacrifice by others, though by the ancient Scandinavians he was the appointed executioner of criminals, and by the ancient Hyrcanians kept sacred for the purpose of devouring his master's own remains; though he has ever been man's companion in his sports as well as in his labors,—by the Oriental he has been from the first until now, hated, despised and allowed to serve only the lowest and vilest uses. It is a significant fact that the most dearly loved and cherished pet and companion of the Western World, is the outcast of the Eastern. In the records of the Hebrews, as among the modern Jews, the dog is always associated with repulsive ideas. To the modern Turk he is unclean, and treated as such. Touching stories are told by travelers of the attempts of the unfortunate pariahs of the East to ingratiate themselves into the favor of strangers, whom they seem to recognize as more friendly to them than the natives. It is Mrs Brassey I believe, who gives a pathetic instance of a dog mother who placed her pups

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The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavit showing that an Arc-Light burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light it gave the first.

A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who bought over 35,000 writes: "The Arc-Light beats all others. It sells our lamps, and turns night into day. Every home, store, hotel, saloon, hall, church, or car company will buy the Arc-Light Wick on sight. We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce this wonderful discovery, and we offer for 60 days the following wholesale terms to agents:

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under her protection while she was living in Constantinople.

The dog, to be the friend and companion that we know, to have his character developed, his intelligence awakened, and become what he is capable of being, must have human sympathy and friendship. Those of his kind who are denied that factor of growth appear like an entirely different race, lacking in individuality of character and far more resembling their relation, the wolf.

The important modern services of the dog to man are three: The protection of life and property, which duty he takes upon himself in all civilized countries; the work of scavenger, which saves the cities of the East from being swept off the face of the earth by pestilence, and that of the draught animal, which is equally indispensable to the life of man in the Polar regions. Of these, the first two offices, though of inestimable value to human life, cannot be classed under the head of working for a living, but in the third named, we see the familiar beast serving strictly as a laborer, with scarcely a pleasure in his hard life, often not even the small satisfaction of feeling that he has pleased his master. For it is a remarkable circumstance, that in the countries where he works the hardest, as well as in those where he is the most useful to man, he is the worst treated; his unvarying wages are kicks, curses and starvation. It is so with the sledge-drawer of the North; it is so with the sheep-herder and the scavenger of the East. The tales brought by travelers of the brutality with which this faithful humble servant is rewarded, are almost beyond belief, and terribly shake one's faith in any superiority of the human race, other than that of strength and cunning to compass its ends.

A Pearl of the Pacific.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



"PACIFIC paradise," Hawaii has been called and it well deserves the name. A land where the climate is almost perfect, warm enough to bring forth tropical fruits and flowers, but moderated by ocean breezes so that the thermometer seldom rises above 80 degrees. Everywhere are the royal palms and banana and cocoanut trees, while every house is covered with blossoming vines, and every garden is overrun with tropical verdure.

About two thousand miles southwest of San Francisco, the great Pacific liners touch at the beautiful harbor of Honolulu. This is the only good harbor in the islands, being well protected from the high surf by a coral reef. The city lies on a level strip of land along the sea, while behind it rise the green slopes of the mountains. Within the city the houses are nearly all modern structures built for comfort and beauty and surrounded by gardens. Here dwell the American and other foreigners, and those natives who have accepted the modern mode of life. Beautiful drives shaded by palms lead from the city in all directions, and street railways and steam trains cross the valleys and touch at the plantations beyond. No modern invention is wanting and the sugar, rice and coffee plantations are carried on under English or American supervision and in the most scientific way. There are good schools, libraries, newspapers and magazines.

The native Hawaiians are a dark-skinned race, with bushy hair, like most of the islanders of the Pacific, and, like them, their habits are simple, and their needs are few. A little raw fish and a dish of "pol" supplies the daily need, and as to clothes, they are happiest when adorned as nature alone adorned them. When first visited by white men they were very numerous, but pure Hawaiians are rapidly decreasing in number owing to the admixture with other races and to their carelessness of health.

The curse of Hawaii is leprosy. This dread disease is absolutely incurable as far as medical science can discover, and the government has set apart a portion of the island of Molokai for a leper settlement. To this place are transported all those afflicted with the disease, and here they spend the rest of their lives, fed and cared for by the brave souls who have gone there, giving their lives to the sufferers. The natives are very superstitious about the leprosy and when anyone whom they love is afflicted they will hide them in the cane rather than allow the authorities to find them.

The Archipelago of Hawaii consists of eight inhabited islands and many smaller ones, all of volcanic origin, with here and there a coral reef built upon the volcanic base. Volcanic cones rise on all sides, some having extinct craters at their summit, some still in constant activity.

The mountains are the wonder and glory of



WINE PALMS.

the islands; on the Island of Hawaii, the largest of the group, are two peaks, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, being respectively 13,805 feet and 13,675 feet. On the summit of Mauna Loa, far up above the clouds which rest always above it, is the old crater, Monaweweo, a vast hollow 1200 feet deep and having a circuit of twenty miles. Few tourists ever visit this weird spot where the god of fire reigns supreme. There is no path to the summit and the place is sown with the shiny cinders and black and red lavas, which have boiled over from this huge caldron. Half way up on the side of Mauna Loa is its better known crater of Kilavea. This is easily accessible, being only 4000 feet above the sea, and approached by a well-worn path. Kilavea is a great basin nine miles in circumference, surrounded by almost perpendicular walls several hundred feet high. The floor of this crater is composed of blocks of lava, some still soft like liquid mud. In the cracks between the blocks may be seen the red-hot mass of lava under the very feet of the traveler, now and again boiling over and spreading out on the surface. Here and there streams of lava flow down the slopes with a hiss of hot steam, emitting a sulphurous odor. Half way across this lava plain with its serpent like streams, and its openings of fire, one comes upon the new and ever active crater. This is a lake of fire about a mile across, and five or six hundred feet deep. Day after day and hour after hour its lavas boil and bubble, never quiet



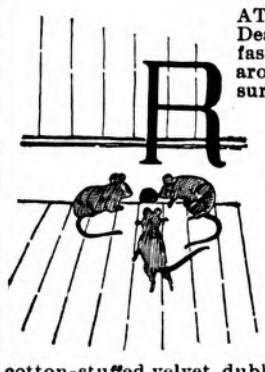
AVENUE OF ROYAL PALMS.

for a moment. Dashing against the cliffs with a noise like a turbulent ocean its waves of blood red, fiery liquid break into gory spray high in the air, and cooling drop in pebbles upon the surface of the lake. At night this is one of the wonders of the world, terribly grand, sublime beyond description. Columns of smoke rise from below and are illuminated as they hang over the lake; flames and sparks are thrown about, or rise in fountains and fall in cascades.

Violent explosions and loud rumblings and groanings add mystery to the weird scene. Standing upon the brink of the precipice that overhangs this strange lake one does not wonder that the superstitious natives sacrifice constantly to Pele, the god of fire, who is imprisoned here. Kilavea is exceedingly interesting to scientists because of its constant activity, as well as its convenience for observation. Unlike Vesuvius and other volcanoes its crater is always accessible. On account of the high walls of the outer crater one may observe an eruption with the utmost safety and gaze upon the marvels of a modern "Inferno" without risk of life.

Almost the whole island is covered with lava which has in recent times overflowed from the crater and covered the slope. Much of this is but little weathered so that the soil is not deep, yet it is so rich that everywhere ferns and flowers spring up and the constant showers, brought by the northeast trade wind, keep the mountain sides in a constant state of verdure. In some places the lava streams have reached the sea and leaped into the waters of the ocean leaving steep cliffs on the shore, contrasting with the white sandy beach and coral reefs. Indeed Hawaii is a land of contrasts; at the sea level tropical heat and vegetation; on the mountains cold winds and bare rocks; in the towns modern buildings and the latest fashions; in the native villages grass huts and primitive clothing. Here is a meeting of the civilization of the West with the simplicity and superstition of the far East. Let us hope that the remnant of the native population may be improved and not degraded by the change, and that our people, who go to Hawaii to make their home, may take as their watchword the salutation of the Hawaiian. "Aloha"—Love to you!

RATS.

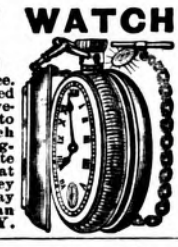


"RATS" are in again! Dear me, how the old fashions do come around! Though to be sure, it is a deal more than seven years since the rat had its last day, and they say that fashions come around once in seven years. It is much nearer five times seven years since the furore for a towering and expansive head of hair gave rise to the little cushions of curled hair, jute, or cotton-stuffed velvet, dubbed "rats" from their fancied resemblance to that charming rodent. They were about the size of the animal mentioned, were furnished with strings for tying round the head, and sometimes had a fine wire run through the middle as an aid in fitting them to the head. Sometimes the hair was rolled over them a la Pompadour, and sometimes it was parted on the top and two rolls were made, one on each side of the head, reaching around to the back where the remainder of the hair was gathered in a knot low down on the head. Now all this is in vogue again, and the pretty young girls with their "ratted" coils of hair are more than ever "the images" of the fond mammas.



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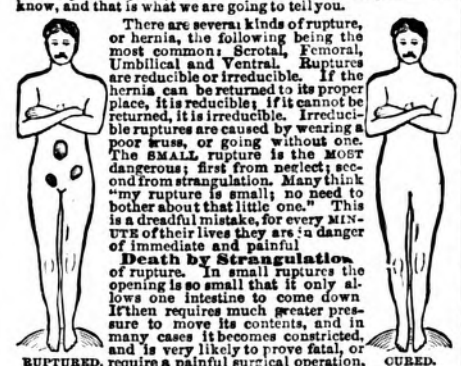
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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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It gives us much pleasure and satisfaction to send these words of hope, which are tidings of joy to those who are ruptured. It is not our purpose to go into the cause of rupture. It would not be any satisfaction to you to know exactly what caused your rupture, but how to cure it is what you want to know, and that is what we are going to tell you.


RUPTURED. CURED.

There are several kinds of rupture, or hernia, the following being the most common: Scrotal, Femoral, Umbilical and Ventral. Ruptures are reducible or irreducible. If the hernia can be returned to its proper place, it is reducible; if it cannot be returned, it is irreducible. Irreducible ruptures are caused by wearing a poor truss, or going without one. The SMALL rupture is the MOST dangerous; first from neglect; second from strangulation. Many think "my rupture is small; no need to bother about that little one." This is a dreadful mistake, for every MINUTE of their lives they are in danger of immediate and painful

Death by Strangulation

of rupture. In small ruptures the opening is so small that it only allows one intestine to come down. It then requires much greater pressure to move its contents, and in many cases it becomes constricted, and is very likely to prove fatal, or require a painful surgical operation, much suffering and loss of time. The small rupture should have prompt attention; there are no others so dangerous; no others the cause of so many deaths. Attend to it at once, to-morrow may be too late. That you are ruptured, and that we can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written, and this announcement will surely be a blessing, coming unawares to those who follow its teachings.

You have suffered perhaps for years with hernia or rupture. We have no doubt but what you have tried many devices, and expended many dollars, with always the same result—failure. The trusses that have been on the market in the past years are now things of the past. They are not made on the right principles. Some of them were considered good in their day, and in some cases were a great relief. Many thought when the elastic truss was invented, "here is a perfect thing at last" but they soon found out they were mistaken.

It Can Now be Clearly Seen

why they failed. They placed all dependence on elastic webbing or belts which go entirely around the body, and they must be pulled or buckled tight enough so they are a torture, to bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and so they must be continually stretching and giving out; never two days alike; consequently the intestines are let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can that kind of truss cure a rupture? A rupture to be cured must be held securely in its natural position. It is probably a waste of time to tell you about old style trusses. You know it all. You know how you have suffered in warm weather from sweating and chafing. The belts and straps pulled up so tight over the galled parts that you would think, "I would rather die than suffer this any longer," and many, after repeated trials, unable to bear the torture any longer are risking their lives and living in misery, without a truss.

To effect a cure of hernia, all know that the hernial tumor or intestines must be kept in the easy, comfortable and natural position that they would be in if there was no rupture. It has been our great good fortune to have placed in our possession a new idea in the shape of what we may call a truss. Do not think it is one of those instruments of torture you have seen that has ropes, pulleys, elastics, etc. To compare ours with others would be like comparing the electric light with an old-fashioned lamp. Our truss stands out alone, a new idea, something that

Has Been Proven

to be far ahead of anything now used for the cure of rupture, only to be seen to be placed far in advance of all appliances now in existence. A truly most wonderful invention, a blessing to mankind. An article that will cure you, because it will hold everything just right in its natural position, which gives the rupture a chance to reunite and heal; does not have elastic webbing to hold it in place; has no straps to pass between the legs; can be worn day and night with ease; is as easy as a stocking to wear; no matter what position you are in, it needs no changing; for simplicity, durability, comfort and effectiveness, cannot be equaled; is

Cool and Comfortable in Warm Weather;

has no parts to chafe you; does not absorb the foul odors from the body, always in place, always comfortable, always curing where such a thing is possible; is durable and can NEVER WEAR OUT; needs no repairing; and

Will Last a Hundred Years

without a single cent being laid out for repairs.

That rupture can be cured is admitted by all. The greatest obstacle has been imperfect appliances that have slipped or are continually moving out of place. It has remained for us to at last place before sufferers our perfect-fitting appliances that will surely cure where it is possible. Of course there are some cases that have gone too far to be cured by any known process: to those we offer

Comfort and Safety.

The inventor of this truss is the Rev. J. Hayden, an old minister of the gospel, who was chaplain of the

17th Maine Regiment,

and who is well remembered by our boys of the blue and gray for his many acts of kindness.

This is what this well-known gentleman says (he is a writer for several magazines and papers:)

"Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an older brother who had the same trouble. He said: 'I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent over $200 for trusses, and the one I have on now is the best I ever had; it cost me $15 (it was an elastic truss), but it is breaking and I must get another.' On examination I found an elastic strap around him, with every stitch of the webbing printed on his body, while the understrap that passed between his legs had chafed him so that he was red and sore. This led me to discover my truss, which is an

Easy to Wear as a Stocking,

and which ended all pain, danger and cost, and never needs repairing. I want to get it into the hands of my fellowmen who are suffering from this dangerous and painful infirmity, for I know it will be worth a hundred times its cost. I am broken down with kidney and heart disease, and I am in constant expectation of death. The thought has been constantly before me. An invention which has the power to relieve so much suffering should not be buried with me. As I am not able, I want you to take measures to introduce it to the world, and if this is accomplished, I shall feel my life has been of value to sufferers. As I have reflected on the miseries of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and consider that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure-fitting, never-failing remedy, amply proven and tested in my own and other cases, and which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate, I feel that it would be a giant wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me: for as

I Value my Honor in This World, and my Soul in the Next,

I unhesitatingly declare that I regard a failure in any instance as impossible.

OUR TERMS: NO CURE, NO PAY.

It is the perfect confidence we have in our method of cure that warrants us in adopting the above terms. Surely we have great faith in our way of treating rupture or we would never make the following proposition to you. It is a fair honest offer that no other firm dare make, because they have not the goods to back it up.

In another column you will find two blanks, which you will carefully fill up with answers to questions asked thereon. Send us these two blanks and ONE dollar with your order for single rupture, and TWO dollars for double rupture.

The reason why we ask you to send $1.00 with your order is, there are so many people who are always writing for anything they can get for nothing. Many would write who are not ruptured. They know some who are and they want to get for nothing something they can sell the afflicted party for $5.00 or $10.00. There are others who have no gratitude in them, their object seems to be to get all they can for nothing, and in no way think of repaying a favor that rightly belongs for them to pay. THIS WE KNOW FROM ACTUAL EXPERIENCE.

To keep such parties from troubling us, we have decided on the following plan: You are to send us $1.00, to be held by us as a small guarantee of good faith. Upon receipt of same, we at once send you a truss, the same to be worn by you. When cured you are to promptly send us $2.00 more, and return us our truss, which we only lend you. Should yours be one of those cases (which are very rare) that cannot be cured, and you wish to keep the truss, because it is so easy and comfortable, we will sell it to you at a fair price, which in no case shall exceed $10.00. Some parties who get cured say they do not want to return the truss, but would rather buy it, so as to keep it handy; so we say we will sell it to all who wish to buy. It takes from two to six months to effect a cure. If you have a double rupture, or you have some member of your family, or friend who is ruptured, and you want two or more trusses, send $1.00 with the order for each truss wanted. Should our appliance or truss not cure, or you are not fitted, we will return the money you sent us, and upon receipt of same you will at once return our truss. The terms we have offered are fair and liberal, no fair-minded person can say they are not, and we will not, under any circumstances, deviate from them.

You Can be Cured Free.

When you send in your order, if you will send us the names of all the ruptured people you know, we will send them our circulars. When we send our truss to six of them, we will refund you all the money you have paid us and cure you free, or give you a truss if yours should be one of those rare cases that cannot be cured. If you will give us permission, we will refer the parties to you, and as you will know it is a great invention, you can truthfully recommend it. There is no doubt but that they will give you an order, or send it direct to us, and we will give you proper credit.

Will you, after these plain, truthful statements, continue to suffer and risk your life by wearing an old-style, imperfect truss? Dare you go without a truss knowing that you are daily growing worse, and that within a short time you will be a physical wreck? Dare you lay this aside before you give us a trial which costs you nothing if you are not satisfied? Do you think it is a humbug? If we were frauds we would not ask the small sum of $1.00 with the order, we would ask $5.00 or $10.00. A fraud never expects a second order, so they get all they can on the first.

Our Truss is for Men, Women and Children.

We can fit an infant, or a man or woman, weighing 300 lbs. Fleshy ladies who have navel ruptures, will find it a great blessing.

No Hot Bands Around You.

It is the only truss that can be worn by women and be clean and comfortable. Ruptured women who are pregnant can wear it and avoid many hours and days of misery. Don't put off sending for it. Do it to-day, to-morrow may be too late. What more need be said to convince you? We warrant A PERFECT FIT IN EVERY CASE.

See the Testimonials.

Be sure and fill out the two blanks.

The truss fits all kinds of ruptures.

It is for the Infant, the Adult, the Fleshy, the Lean, the Short, and the Tall.

Men and women use same blank for measure.

The government has allowed Rev. J. Hayden a patent. Is that not alone sufficient evidence that it is a WONDERFUL NEW INVENTION?

Testimonials, circulars, etc., will be sent free.

In closing we will say we have cured many who have had bad rupture, and we can cure you if you will only let us. We may be the means of doing you much good, and hope to hear from you in the near future.

The Postmaster Says:

I have examined the letters from which these *testimonials* were taken, and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Surehold truss. E. T. Mayberry.

Suffered 16 Years, Now Cured.

Dear Sir:—Accept my many thanks. I think your truss is the only one that is Sure Cure. I consider myself cured by your truss after suffering for sixteen years and trying many different kinds. Yours truly, J. S. Porter, Atlanta, Ga.

Saved from the Knife.

I had tried every kind of a truss I could get hold of, and found none that would hold rupture in place, it being very low down, and the doctors told me that I could get help only by an operation, and which I had decided to have performed. I suffered so much from it and had gone so far as to make arrangements with parties to perform the operation when I happened by chance to get hold of one of your books. I looked it over and decided to try once more and sent you my measure for a truss, which was received in due time. I put it on and it fitted like a charm, and has held me all right, and rupture has not been down since I put it on. I wear it all the time without any inconvenience. I should hardly know I had a truss on without I think of it. I can stoop or bend in any manner without the least inconvenience. I think my rupture is healed and all right, and that I could leave it off all right, but prefer to wear it still longer. Edwin Snow, Snowville, N. H.

Cured in Five Months.

Dear Sirs:—I have worn your truss five months and have taken it off now, and I am cured of rupture. Your truss is the best I ever used; it is better than you recommend it. Other firms praise their ill-constructed, padded trusses very highly, but they are really not good for anything; I have worn them for years and got no better. I would not give one of yours for one hundred of theirs. Andrew Proper, Glenco Mills, N. Y.

A Physician Says:

Dear Sir:—I send you herewith an order for one of your trusses. Please send me some of your order blanks so that I may order from your company from time to time for my patients. I have tried your goods and find them O. K.
Yours truly, S. O. Hutson, M. D., Beaufort, S. C.

Cures Double Rupture.

Dear Sirs:—I had a double rupture, the right side has healed up and the left side is almost well. Yours truly,
William Wilson, Doubs, Md.

Cured in Five Months.

Gentlemen:—I have worn your truss five months. I went to a physician and he said it was healed up. Send me some of your pamphlets so I can distribute them. I cannot say enough in favor of your truss. F. E. Brigg, Bristol, Vt.

Was in Great Misery—Cured.

Gentlemen:—I have never been troubled any since I put on your truss. I could not say enough in your praise. I can work as hard as I ever could. I do not know that I am cured. I have been afraid to take truss off yet for fear that I am not. I was so poorly before I began to wear your truss, that a whole week would pass and I would not be able to do scarcely anything. I could not ride a mile in a carriage, without great misery, and being in great danger. Now I can ride ten miles with ease. Yours truly, Mrs. Nora Clem, Kent, Iowa.

Cured My Boy.

Gentlemen:—Your truss has cured my boy when no other would, and in the same time you said it would. I am more than thankful to you for it. Every word you said was true. No need of any child suffering when they can be cured so easily. Yours truly, Mrs. Mary Yarnell, Middleton, Ohio.

Cured Boy in Three Months.

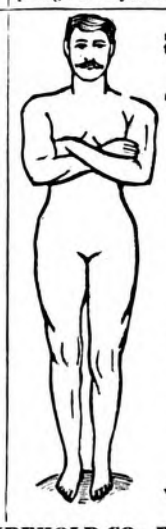
Dear Sirs:—My little boy is cured after wearing your truss three months. It is a great truss, and I will do all I can in your favor. Yours truly, Samuel T. Everett, Crumpton, Md.

When you write to any of the above parties, be sure to enclose 5 cents in stamps to pay for stationery, if you expect an answer. Remember they get many enquiries, and cannot spend time and postage unless you send stamps as we request.

C SPECIAL ORDER BLANK. C

SUREHOLD CO.,
Date..... 189
Dear Sirs:—Find enclosed my measure. Send at once one of your Surehold Trusses. Enclosed find $1.00. When I am cured of my rupture I agree to promptly send you $2.00 more, and return the Truss you send me. If I am not cured or fitted, I promise to return Truss on receipt of $1.00.

Name, ...
Street, or P. O. Box if you have one, ...
Post Office, ...
County, ... State, ...
Write your name and address very plain.
For DOUBLE RUPTURE send $2 with this Blank.



1. How many inches do you measure around your body, on a line with the rupture?
2. Are you ruptured on right side, left side, both sides or navel?
3. About how large is the rupture?
4. How near the scrotum or bag is it?
5. Does it descend into the scrotum?
6. Can you reduce or return it easily?
7. What is your height?
8. What is your weight?
9. What is your age?
10. What is your occupation?
11. How long have you been ruptured?
12. Mark as near as possible on picture where your rupture is.

SUREHOLD CO., Box C, Westbrook, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



AT the Lunation or New Moon which occurs at about 23 minutes past 4 o'clock in the morning of the 10th of February, 1899, the first decanate of the celestial sign Capricorn will be ascending, bearing Venus just on the horizon, while the last degrees of Libra will be on the meridian. The conjunction of the luminaries occurs in the 2nd house, having the benevolent rays of Saturn in the 12th and Neptune in the 6th house. Herschel is in the 11th; Mercury is near the 2nd cusp under the favorable rays of Herschel, his disposer, but poorly aspected by Jupiter; the warlike Mars is in the 7th retrograde and in his fall, while Jupiter, the great benefic, is elevated near the south meridian.

The promises of the figure, on the whole, are much better than usual for this lunation, though there are some adverse features to be noted. Mars indicates some dissensions and enmities with threats of warlike actions in our southwestern possessions in which the naval forces may be called into activity, and there is probability of some bad eruptive disease like small pox in those regions likely to affect our soldiers and sailors. Unusual precaution should be had in this respect by the governing authorities both at home and abroad. There will be some unusual excitement in Congress in discussions involving the finances and the expenditures of the nation. The benefics holding the important angles of the scheme indicate the popularity of the Chief Executive and his administration and the thrift of the government under his rule; also the prosperity of the masses of our people. We will have some extremely cold weather in the lunation, probably in the last days of February and from the 4th to 8th of March. There will be some disorder in some prison from which treacherous conduct aiming at a jail delivery is to be apprehended. Our government should be on the alert against the machinations of secret enemies operating in the interest of Spain. This latter country is still sadly under the ban and is in further danger of disruption and revolution. There will be some very disastrous fires in New York City and some unusual harm from explosions, and fire and steam. Persons born about the 8th of January, 9th of April, 12th of July and 13th of October, of past years, will need to be watchful against attacks from small pox or other eruptive diseases; should carefully avoid indulging in stimulants and pay more than ordinary heed to the digestion.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, 1899.

FEBRUARY 1—Wednesday. This month begins with an excellent day for the vigorous prosecution of all general business; it is especially recommended for important transactions as to houses and land and for dealings with farmers and those trading in farm products. The night hours are contentious and prompt caution for the avoidance of quarrels and accidents from fire and explosion; thieves are likely to be unusually active during the hours between sunset of the 1st and the dawn of the 2nd, and many of them come to grief in their misdoings.

2—Thursday. Quite fortunate in the forenoon for transactions with artists and musicians, workers in silk, jewelers, tailors, dressmakers and milliners; and the day generally should be fully employed in pushing all honorable transactions; have money dealings in the afternoon, when also buy merchandise for trade, open new stores and deal with persons of station and wealth.

3—Friday. Attend to financial matters in the morning hours but do not apply to any public officer or any person in authority over thee for any kind of favor during the middle hours of the day; as the noon hours are passed, however, give all thine energies to business; especially such as pertains to manufacture or construction; perform chemical experiments; deal in electrical goods, drugs, machinery and sharp instruments.

4—Saturday. A very fortunate day for the literary pursuits and for dealings with persons engaged in clerical capacities, also teachers, students, surveyors, civil engineers, and mathematicians generally; give preference to the forenoon for business concerned with the mechanical pursuits and trades; travel, trade in cattle and metals and deal with chemists, physicians, military men and cutlers; the noon and the afternoon are the best parts of the day for dealings with printers, publishers, stationers and real estate trades; the mind will be unusually active and ideas clothe themselves readily and tastefully; urge correspondence, make contracts, especially such as affect legal and educational matters, hire help and push all matters of trade and business.

5—Sunday. Specially conducive to mental eccentricities and indulgences in the imaginative and marvelous in literature.

6—Monday. The unpropitious moments of this day occur before the noon hour when business of all kinds should be transacted conservatively, and when real estate dealings are best deferred; as the day advances, however, conditions are much improved and special activity is urged in conducting matters connected with art, music, fancy goods, articles of adornment, apparel and the beautiful and elegant in life; seek audience with ladies, and expect to derive more than usual pleasure or entertainment from the drama.

7—Tuesday. Be at work early on this day; solicit money advantages, buy goods for trade and urge the commercial pursuits to their utmost; dealings in stock and money transactions result favorably to those whose nativities also promise fairly at this time; do not waste a moment, but inaugurate as many of the new ventures in life as possible; the evening hours are less to be depended upon.

8—Wednesday. Be master of the tongue during the morning hours lest quarrels and unpleasantness come; do not have any surgical operations performed nor should any favorable result be expected from dealings with persons in the manufacturing walks of life; fires and accidents are to be guarded against; the latter part of the day is best.

9—Thursday. Hold fast the purse strings during the forenoon of this day when no purchases should be made of merchandise for trade; beware of speculation, giving thine energies to the disposal of what thou hast for trade rather than making new ventures. The strictly literary pursuits are more favored than others and mental efforts, though inclined towards the eccentric and novel will be likely to be more than usually effective.

10—Friday. Apply to public officials or thine employer for favor or advantages; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, wood, lead, lumber, wool and grain, and, with discretion, in mining and railroad stocks; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with printers, publishers, and persons generally in fiduciary capacities; have dealings with the laboring classes, and make beginnings in business pertaining to real estate and the agricultural pursuits.

11—Saturday. One of the excellent days in which all important undertakings should be pushed vigorously; seek money favors at the hands of banks and persons of wealth; important enterprises pertaining to the elegant occupations or polite arts are favorably begun at this time and the day is also fortunate for purchase or sale of wearing apparel and all fancy and ornamental goods.

12—Sunday. Not promising for a Sabbath day, inviting physical rest and quiet rather than exertion or mental efforts.

13—Monday. Defer thy purchases of wearing apparel until a more favorable time and look out in the pursuit of pleasure or recreation that extravagant drains are not made upon the purse; the afternoon encourages thee to crowd all literary and commercial undertakings, excepting dealings in the artistic and decorative wares; urge correspondence and crowd all mental efforts.

14—Tuesday. A very fortunate day for agricultural matters and for having any manner of dealings with landlords or in houses or lands, mining properties, lumber, coal or wool. During the middle hours of this day applications to employers and persons in authority for preferment or advantage are likely to meet with very favorable consideration.

15—Wednesday. Let the musician, artist, and all in the nicer avocations of life begin this day with its earliest moments and labor diligently until the evening, dealing also in articles of dress, adornment or decoration; taking principal steps in all business of these classes as early in the morning as possible; the evening bids thee be watchful of the purse and guarded against thefts or an extravagant inclination in thy purchases; it will be better if thy means is not invested at this time in any new undertaking.

16—Thursday. Be cautious in the use of the pen in the early forenoon, when commercial contracts are best deferred; sign no deeds; engage no servants nor expect much progress or advantage from any of the literary undertakings; as the noon is passed the moments increase in energy and enterprise and activity is invited in all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travellers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

17—Friday. This day is peculiarly adverse for any beginning involving matters of a public nature or dealings with government officers or prominent persons in large corporations; have care to avoid disputes and controversies and keep the tongue well under control, as haste in most any venture on this day would be likely to do more harm than at any other times.

18—Saturday. Urge business of all kinds during all of this day, preference being given to such as depends upon mental labor for its best success. It is especially favorable for literary matters and for the prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies. Let all classes of contracts affecting legal matters and all important movements for intellectual improvement and educational interests be now made. Merchants and tradesmen are particularly favored.

19—Sunday. An excellent day for improvement of the mind and for proper appreciation of the merits of literary and scientific productions; the mind inclines rather more towards the sombre and reflective and the contemplation of the grand or sublime in nature and art than towards the flowery and ornate.

20—Monday. Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost; for buying goods for trade and for money transactions generally.

21—Tuesday. This day is emphatically to be avoided for wooing or wedding; the fair sex should remember that dissensions and controversies threaten the matrimonial engagements now effected and the time is especially conducive to quarrels between lovers; be very cautious in handling fire and chemicals; surgical operations are extremely dangerous to both operator and patient; let the strictest temperance be exercised in all kinds of pleasure seeking; beware of the suddenly awakened appetite for stimulants, for these passing days are dangerous in this respect; it is apprehended that there will occur notorious harm or violence to some member of the fair sex that will reflect the viciousness of the existing conditions; there will be marked increase of intemperance and unusual aggravation of digestive troubles and kidney weakness. The above suggestions are peculiarly applicable to persons born about the 8th of January and April, and the 12th of July and October, of past years.

22—Wednesday. Let this day be improved for literary pursuits and engagements of minor character and importance, but steps of much magnitude are best postponed for a short season.

23—Thursday. A passive day in which local conditions contribute little impulse; improve vigorously the benevolent indications of thy nativity.

24—Friday. Have dealings on this day, especially in the early hours, with builders, plumbers, farmers, dyers, and all persons engaged in the laborious and dirty avocations, when also seek the society and ask favors of aged persons; purchase coal, lead, iron, grain, wool and lumber.

25—Saturday. On this day, do thou beware of litigation and contentions, for this is a day of strife and discord; engage no servants, travel not, and be sure to "make haste slowly" in thy respective avocations; be very careful if compelled to be about machinery or electrical apparatus and in the handling of chemicals, fire arms, hot liquids and fire; typhoid and respiratory troubles are more dangerous at this time and the best care should now be given to persons whose nativities render them peculiarly susceptible in this respect. The suggestions are appropriate also for the majority of persons born about the 24th of February, 26th of May, 28th of August and 26th of November, of past years.

26—Sunday. The day is a happy one until the afternoon hours, being particularly conducive to enjoyment from communion with the poet, musician and artist; extemporaneous preaching should abound in metaphor and elegant though eccentric sentiment and the musical portion of religious worship should be peculiarly happy and effective; the afternoon is disappointing and unsatisfactory.

27—Monday. This day encourages dealings with railway officials, public officers and persons in authority in large corporations, also for the study of uncommon subjects, patents, trade marks, etc.

28—Tuesday. Use the forenoon of this day for entering into important ventures in the literary world and dealing with booksellers, publishers, printers, lawyers and all ingenious persons; the night hours are evil and caution all against quarrels and disputes; see that no chances are taken of fires and explosions.

SELF HOME TREATMENT FOR LADIES.

I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female troubles, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask. MRS. SUMMERS, Box C, Notre Dame, Ind.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

Depression is never the normal condition of healthy men; it is always the evidence of disease.

FREE TO INVALID LADIES.

A safe, simple home treatment that cured me after years of suffering with uterine troubles, displacements, leucorrhœa, etc., sent free to ladies with full instructions how to use it. Address Mrs. L. Hudnut, South Bend, Ind.

Ladies.—Send to Mrs. E. Wales, Toledo, O., for free package of Clover Blossom. Cures all female diseases.

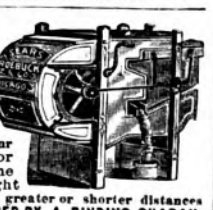
STRICTURE CURED AT HOME

When we say "cured," we mean no patching up, but a positive, never to return cure. Our treatment is by a New Method, painless, and requires

NO SURGICAL OPERATION

no loss of time, and is used secretly at home. We have never failed in over 5,000 cases, and are as sure to cure stricture, and prostatic enlargement as the sun is to rise. **Proofs and sealed book free.**
EMPIRE MED. CO., 85 Smith Bld'g, Boston, Mass.

SEND ONE DOLLAR Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this **Fanning Mill** by freight, C.O.D. subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to **Fanning Mills that retail at $20.00 to $25.00,** pay the freight agent **Our Special Price, $9.90,** less the $1.00, or **$8.90** and freight charges. The mill weighs 120 pounds, and the freight will be about 70 cents for 500 miles, greater or shorter distances in proportion. **EVERY MILL IS COVERED BY A BINDING GUARANTEE:** more wind, more shake, carries more screen and will do more and better work than any mill you can buy for $20.00. **Will separate wild seed from wheat in one operation, will separate the foul seeds,** such as mustard, pigeon grass, etc., from flax on once going through the mill. **It is a perfect cleaner of clover and timothy.** Made of the very best material. We furnish with it one wire wheat hurdle, three sieves, wheat screens, wheat grader, corn and oat sieve and barley sieve. **Capacity, 90 bushels per hour. $9.90 is our special offer price. Order at once. Write for free Agricultural Implement Catalogue.**



Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.) CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

ARE YOU ONLY

ONE-HALF A MAN

A Full Five Days Treatment of Professor Jules Laborde's Marvelous French Vital Restorative

CALTHOS

SENT FREE TO MEN

BY SEALED MAIL

No C. O. D. or Deposit Scheme.



CALTHOS is now recognized by all intelligent physicians as the only perfect, permanent and unfailing cure for Spermatorrhœa, Impotency and Varicocele yet discovered. It is a preparation of the French scientist, Prof. Jules Laborde, the world's greatest specialist in nervous diseases.

It was Prof. Laborde who first discovered, and proved to the satisfaction of the French Academy by the record of 859 cases, that these dread diseases are due to nervous debility, and that no treatment which failed to recognize that fact and strike at the root of the trouble could do more than give temporary relief.

CALTHOS strikes at the root. It cures the disease and removes the cause. It is the only remedy known to science that will absolutely cure nervous debility. It has for years been used as a specific in the French and German Armies. It has a record of a vast number of perfect cures in every part of Europe. It is duplicating its foreign success in this country.

It is controlled in this country solely by The Von Mohl Co., of Cincinnati, and is sold under their positive guarantee, signed and acknowledged, that it will effect a perfect cure.

Every man who suffers from sexual weakness, premature loss of strength and memory, emissions, varicocele, shrunken parts, impotency, or any of the other awful results of early abuses, excesses, or overwork and nervous strain, can be cured if he will but avail himself of the CALTHOS treatment.

The time to do so is *now*. Neither CALTHOS nor anything else on earth can cure you after epilepsy sets in with the resulting consumption and insanity which follow naturally in the train of nervous debility and sexual diseases.

So remarkable has been the success of CALTHOS and so certain is The Von Mohl Co. of its ability to effect a cure in every case that, in order to give every sufferer in the country an opportunity to learn just what this remedy can do for him, it has decided to give every one who chooses to ask for it, the benefit of five days' *FREE* treatment.

Understand that this is no C. O. D. or Deposit Scheme—it is absolutely free. Understand, too, that The Von Mohl Co. is not a new nor an irresponsible concern, but is the biggest and most trustworthy house of the kind in America. This statement you can easily verify.

The CALTHOS remedy is sent in plain package; there is no publicity in receiving it or taking it. With it comes a full treatise telling you in plain language just what to do and just what the remedy will do for you.

This offer can of course remain open but a short time. It affords the greatest opportunity ever offered to the man whose condition forces him to look upon the future with dismay and anxiety, and to the man whom disreputable quacks, fake remedies and appliances have left in a worse condition than before.

Irresponsible advertisers mislead thousands by fake testimonials. A moment's thought will convince you that no one would allow his name to be printed in connection with this class of diseases. The Von Mohl Co. has received a large number of astonishing testimonials from those who have been completely cured by CALTHOS after all else had failed—after doctors had given them up and so-called "remedies" had been tried in vain, but of course it does not print, nor pretend to print, communications of so delicate and private a nature.

Five days CALTHOS treatment will place you on the highroad to health, manly strength and happiness—and it's free for the asking. Ask to-day. Address THE VON MOHL CO., 430 B, Cincinnati, Ohio. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.

Rubber Goods of every description. Cat'lg free. Edwin Mercer & Co. Toledo, O.

BED WETTING CURED. TRIAL FREE. Mrs. H. ROWAN, Milwaukee, Wis.



YOUR BUST ENLARGED Six Inches. Failure Impossible. 1000 Testimonials. Send two cents for full particulars. AURUM MEDICINE CO., Dept. AN, 55 State St., Chicago

Stricture CURED while You Sleep. 8,000 cured in one year. Valuable Illustrated Treatise Free. St. James Associates, Dept. 57 Bond Hill, O.

WEAK MEN



of all ages who are nervous, and who lack power, energy and vim, can be quickly and permanently cured by the new powerful & scientific remedy **LEONIN** (Lion Vigor). Gives man the strength of a Lion. Vital Losses, Impotency, Lost Manhood, Varicocele, etc. (no matter how caused) cannot exist after **LEONIN** is used. We will mail our book and a **Box of Leonin FREE** postpaid in a plain sealed package, to all men who write for it. No C. O. D. Prescription or Deposit Scheme. No embarrassing questions asked. Costs you nothing to try it. Ad. in strict confidence, THE LEONIN CO., B 12, ST. LOUIS, MO.

RUBBER **GOODS** of all kinds. Special Novelties. Cat'g free. HAZELTINE CO., Toledo, O.

RUBBER **Goods** and necessary specialties for women and children. Agents 48 page cat. free. VENUS MFG. CO., Chicago.

A BIG OFFER **50c. MADE IN A MINUTE!** If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at **$50** or **$100** per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.



WEAK MEN

Instant Relief. Cure in 15 days. Never returns. I will gladly send to any sufferer in a plain sealed envelope **FREE** a prescription with full directions for a quick, private cure for Lost Manhood, Night Losses, Nervous Debility, Small Weak Parts, Varicocele, etc. **G. B. Wright, Music Dealer, Box 1235, Marshall, Mich.**



A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.

GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools,** as shown in the above cut, viz: **1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering** all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately **would cost between $7.00 and $9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are **full sized, practical, neat** and **cheap.** It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for $3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only $2.50** which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 12 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you. Address,
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

NOTICE TO AGENTS.

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE

WILLING TO WORK.

$3.00 a Day Sure.

DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from $3 to $5 a day at this business. We admit that $3 to $5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from $20 to $50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from $20 to $50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that $3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging $4 and $5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from $7 to $10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, $3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than $3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make $3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear $3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from $5 to $7, and even $10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a Company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from $3 to $5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from $3 to $5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Brazil Silver is the best metal ever discovered for making spoons and forks, but it is not hard and springy enough for knives. First-class knives can only be made of finely tempered steel and plated with pure silver. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Anyone who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from $3 to $5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, $2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, $1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, $1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to $2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only 85 cents, which is 1.98 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-third of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in everyway, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even eighty-five cents, and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the eighty-five cents, cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent eighty-five cents and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.:

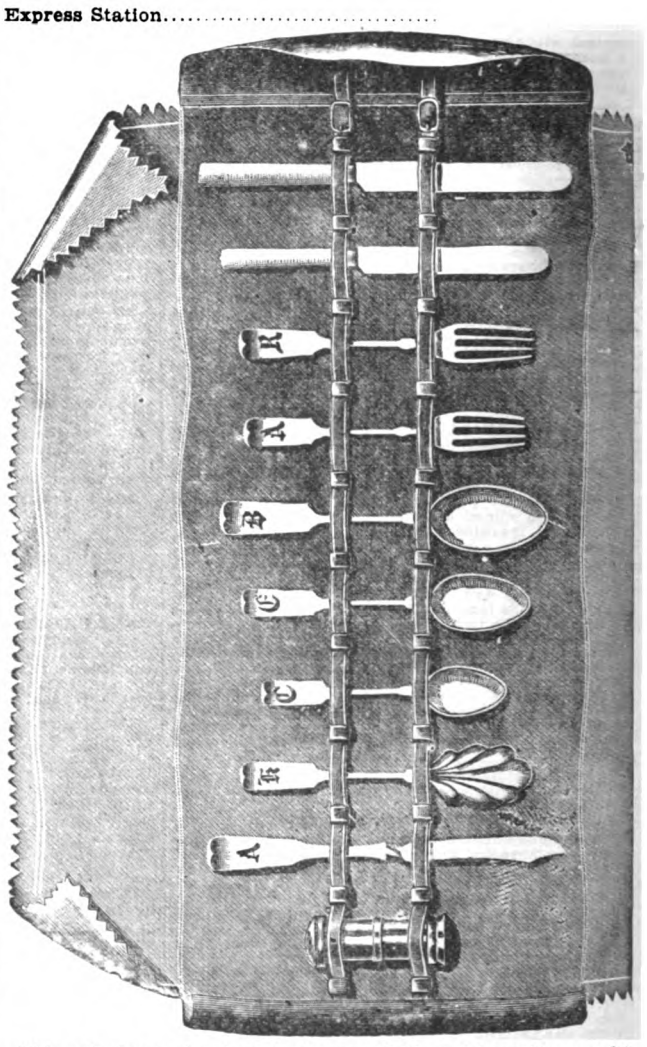
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the eighty-five cents required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the eighty-five cents. If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name..... .....

Postoffice..... .....

County..... .....State..... .....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the *Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage.* Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,

Box 9800, DETROIT, MICH.

FEBRUARY 1899

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOL XI NO 4 MN 124

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON.

Copyright, 1899, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.
Incorporated.



A VALENTINE.

From the meadow your walks have left so sweet
That whenever a March-wind sighs
He sets the jewel-print of your feet
In violets blue as your eyes,
To the woody hollows in which we meet,
And the valleys of Paradise.

The slender acacia would not shake
One long milk-bloom on the tree;
The white lake-blossoms fell into the lake,
As the pimpernel dozed on the lea;
But the rose was awake all night for your sake,
Knowing your promise to me;
The lilies and roses were all awake,
They sighed for the dawn and thee.

Queen rose of the rose-bud garden o girls,
Come hither! the dances are done;
In gloss of satin and glimmer of pearls,
Queen lily and rose in one;
Shine out, little head, sunning over with curls,
To the flowers and be their sun.

There has fallen a splendid tear
From the passion flower at the gate,
She is coming, my dove, my dear;
She is coming, my life, my fate!
The red rose cries, "She is near, She is near;"
The larkspur listens, "I hear, I hear;"
And the lily whispers, "I wait."

She is coming, my own, my sweet;
Were it ever so airy a tread,
My heart would hear her and beat,
Were it earth in an earthly bed;
My dust would hear her and beat,
Had I lain for a century dead;
Would start and tremble under her feet,
And blossom in purple and red.

— *Alfred Tennyson.*

VALENTINE NUMBER

N. S. Edition.



PRIZE WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY.

Sara A. Underwood, First Prize.
J. Reviera, Second Prize.
F. N. Stevens, Third Prize.
R. B. Buckham, Fourth Prize.
S. E. Gannett, Fifth Prize.

THE ODD ONE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARA A. UNDERWOOD.

Copyright, 1899, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

SYNOPSIS.

Theo Staples, eldest daughter of the senior partner of Staples & Stilton, publishers, was called by the family the odd one, as she had peculiar ideas on many things. She was a very lovely girl of twenty-three, and desired to enter her father's publishing house to learn the business—more as a means of aiding working women than for any other reason. Her father reluctantly allowed her to do this, and his young partner, Ambrose Stilton, took a great fancy to her, though he could see that she disliked him. Oliver Norman, a foreman in one of the departments, however, attracted her in an unaccountable manner, and they became friendly on account of their peculiar tendencies; they were able to read each other's thoughts, and this led to experiments tried at Theo's home, in which all the family were interested. Oliver Norman was an inventor, and in his spare moments was working on an invention in a little room which had been partitioned off for him, at the publishing house.



BUT there was one who was inwardly furious at what he considered Oliver Norman's upstart impertinence in pushing his way into Miss Staples' good graces. His rage was all the more furious because he, himself, had seemed not to advance one step in his design to win her love and admiration. He understood her sufficiently, however, to recognize that his worst policy would be to show openly his bitter feelings toward Mr. Norman. This person was Ambrose Stilton.

One evening, however, Mr. Staples gave him a clue which he set to work to use in the furtherance of his purpose. Oliver Norman had completed the work he had been engaged on, and had placed the manuscript in the care of Staples & Stilton for immediate publication.

"Have you looked into Norman's book manuscript, Mr. Stilton?" asked Mr. Staples.

"Heavens, no!" said Stilton with a sniff of contempt. "Seems to me that fellow had better stick to his proper business in the house instead of wasting his time in writing trashy literature, and trying to invent what he probably knows nothing about. You ought not to encourage him, Mr. Staples."

"You don't do him justice, Stilton. As to attending to his business, no man could be more punctual, and if he can hit the right thing in that invention to make the press work more rapidly than it now does, why, it will be money in his pocket; and in ours too, perhaps. Then as to his book; if he chooses to spend his nights in writing, I don't see what business it is of ours. But you ought to look over that manuscript. It's all about that new fangled craze, hypnotism, mesmerism and such things. Theo had him here a few evenings experimenting with her and the girls, and by George! he did some very queer things; put Rose and Anna to sleep, made Anna tell where Rose had hidden some things, made Theo wide awake, tell the number of the page in a book which he held where she couldn't see—I don't understand it at all. I thought perhaps a young man like you would know. He read us several chapters of his manuscript at different times."

Stilton listened intently and remembered that a mesmerist had once said to him that he, himself, had potent power in this direction, but he only said now, as he rose to go:

"Yes, I know a little about those things and I guess I'll go over Norman's manuscript. You know there's a great deal of quackery and fraud about this sort of thing; do you think it's quite safe to allow your daughters to get their heads filled with such nonsense?"

"Wait till you have daughters of your own," Mr. Staples said, "then you'll not talk about 'allowing' them to do this or that."

Ambrose Stilton bade his host a smiling good-night, but as the street door closed behind him, his face took on a savage look and he muttered fiercely:

"So that's your little game is it, Mr. Oliver Norman! You hypnotize the proud Theodora, do you? Well that's a game two can play at," and he threw his head back with conscious strength and power.

The next morning as he glanced through the daily paper his eyes brightened as he read a certain paragraph.

"So cousin Philip is back from Paris. I'm in luck! Come to think of it, wasn't hypnotism what he went over for, to study that or some other new fad in the Paris hospitals? I'll make him a call and find out what I can."

Dr. Philip Somes, just returned from a year's stay in Europe, was greatly surprised at the warmth of his cousin Ambrose Stilton's greeting when the latter called at his office a few days later. He was still more surprised at the new interest in medical science which he manifested. The doctor, brimming with professional enthusiasm over the wonderful feats accomplished in the French hospitals by Professors Charcot, Binet, and others, in curing disease through hypnotic suggestions, was easily led into detailed accounts of some of these in which his cousin showed such interest that he was invited to be present at some experiments which Dr. Somes and his partner were about to try on one of their patients. This Mr. Stilton readily promised.

Oliver Norman's invention was as yet incomplete—one bit of gearing did not work quite well, and yet he could not see where the fault lay. He had shown it to Messrs. Staples & Stilton; the latter was not particularly interested, but Mr. Staples was quite anxious for its completion and spoke of this anxiety to Theo.

She wondered if Mr. Norman would allow her to see this mysterious piece of machinery. On Mr. Staples mentioning her wish, Oliver readily consented. So one day, accompanied by her father, Theo was admitted in the little workroom which was kept safely locked, save when the inventor was within.

"It seems rather odd, Miss Staples," he said, "to admit a lady into this workroom. So few are at all interested in machinery."

Then he uncovered his model, explaining, as he pointed out each part, its connection with the whole design. He was pleased that Theodora showed by her questions that she followed his meaning and appreciated the possibilities involved in the invention. She evinced a particular interest over the defective part, studied it a little in silence with knitted brow, then expressed a hope that the right idea would soon come; and as they passed out of the room, Oliver felt her bright presence as an augury of coming success.

Two or three days later as he was hurriedly passing her case, she called him to her.

"I fear you will think me very silly," she began in a hesitant way. "Do you believe at all in dreams, Mr. Norman?"

"Well sometimes," he answered, "though my own dreams rarely come true."

"Mine do very often," said Theo, "otherwise I wouldn't think of telling you that last night I had a queer dream about you and your invention. I dreamed that you had solved the difficulty of which you spoke to me; that you came to me with beaming face and cried 'Eureka!' and showed me a diagram which you had drawn on a piece of paper and began to explain it to me—then I woke up, but soon went to sleep and again dreamed that you brought the same diagram to me and seemed worried that I did not understand it; then again I awoke and as it was daylight, I rose, got paper and pencil and drew a copy of the diagram thus impressed upon my mind. Of course I don't suppose that it means anything, but I thought you might be interested to see the diagram of my dream. Here it is," and she gave him a folded bit of paper. As he studied it his face took on a graver expression and finally his eyes turned to Theo with a scared look while his hand shook.

"Miss Staples, this is the greatest thing! Do you know I do think this holds the solution of that refractory gear. May I take this diagram and compare it with my own plans?"

He was gone a long time, but at last he came back looking so happy that Theo was prepared for his announcement that the diagram gave him just the hint he needed to complete the model. He thanked her warmly. "I wish my book were not so nearly out of press, so I could add this confirmatory dream of yours," he said.

It was in October that Theo's determination to learn the printer's art took possession of her. She had worked on bravely through the winter and spring without showing signs of faltering or weariness in spite of her outside work among working women, and her study of Psychic lore. It was now nearly the first of June, and the family as usual, were preparing to leave the city for the summer months. Theo, absorbed in her new life, at first objected to being included in the general vacation exodus, but within the past week or two her resolution had faltered and she had consented to go to Newport.

Ever since her entrance upon her new duties, her father's partner had been exceedingly cordial and pleasant in his manners to her, but of late he sought her more frequently on the most trivial excuses; frequently bouquets of rare flowers were left upon her case, and occasionally he turned the talk in such channels as offended Theo's taste. What annoyed her greatly now, was the queer and conflicting state of mind in regard to him which she discovered in herself. Out of her sight he was positively disliked; whenever she saw him approach, it was with a sense of annoyance, but all this was dissipated as if by magic, as soon as he fixed his eyes upon and spoke to her; then there came to her a sense of positive pleasure in his presence, a dreamy, languorous delight in watching every change in his expressive countenance, the graceful gesticulations of his hands and arms in conversation, the frequent change of pose in his supple and athletic figure; and while he talked his sayings seemed full of wit and wisdom; but when she tried afterward to recall what was said, the words seemed to have lost their charm. She had never so far in her life been consciously in love with any man, but the state of her mind toward Mr. Stilton, so perplexed her that she sometimes wondered if the fascination she felt when he was present, could be the beginning of the fatal passion. She could not speak of this to her mother. She sometimes longed to confide her perplexities to Mr. Norman who seemed to her so self-poised and serene; but he was a man, so that was out of the question. So she concluded to go to Newport with the family and think matters out straight by herself. Besides, she found she needed rest as never before in her healthful, vigorous life. A strange, exhausted feeling had come over her lately. Sometimes it was an exertion even to think or talk.

Mr. Stilton was temporarily away on business for the firm when Theo made her sudden decision. So Mr. Staples could not accompany the family party as usual to see them settled comfortably in their summer quarters, but one of his sons went in his place, as much care was required in the removal of the dear invalid mother.

After a few days of Newport life, bathing in the surf, taking long drives and walks, rowing and fishing, Theo began to feel quite like her old self. She concluded she must have been suffering a severe attack of "nerves" as she recalled her strange state of mind in regard to Ambrose Stilton who now appeared to her a most common-place man to whom she was utterly indifferent.

"I must not allow any more of those maudlin conversations to take place. I will snub him severely, once for all on my return," she thought. She felt that she had wholly recovered from her glamour in regard to him, when to her surprise she received a letter from him in which he formally declared his love for her and his desire to make her his wife.

Her answer was not delayed as he had begged, until her return, but was sent at once, a brief but emphatic refusal. "And that puts an end to my printing business," she thought ruefully, "until papa and he dissolve partnership at least, for I could never place myself in a position where he could have access to me again." It was characteristic of her that in this case also, she took no one, not even her mother into her confidence.

Two or three evenings after the day she sent her letter of refusal to Mr. Stilton, she was asked to make one of a party of four to drive to the bathing beach near the cliff walk. The friend who invited her was a lady artist, who wished to catch the moonlight effect on the rolling surf. One gentleman accompanied the party, so Theo felt quite safe to wander on the moonlit sands some distance away from them as the beach at that hour was comparatively deserted. It was ten o'clock and the craggy rocks below the cliff walk seemed to her filled with weird shapes and the air alive with whisperings from uncanny looking nooks. Her own mood was one of peaceful, happy reverie. A vague sense of the possible happiness of mere being filled her heart and brain with beautiful fantasies of a future life better worth living than this. She looked back at the dim group of figures flitting about the artist and tried to fancy herself really alone and that these were water sprites making a brief visit on shore.

Some one laughed; she heard, and that broke the spell. To renew it she walked on further to be out of the sound of their voices. Now she felt quite alone. A light fog hid the curved shoreline on the left as she faced the ocean. How vast and strong and mysterious it looked with here and there a white sail glittering in the moonlight, and afar off specks of light marking the position of sea craft of various sorts. No wonder the Eternity had been likened to an ocean; these points of light might be ministering spirits bent on some great mission.

"Theodora! Theodora!"

As if one stood beside her and called upon her despairingly, she heard this tense cry. It was the voice of Oliver Norman! She turned as in a dream, fully expecting to see him close by, saying as she turned, "what is the matter?"

She started, for she was still alone with not even a bathing-house or rock near by to conceal anything—the wet sand shining under her feet, the sea stretching before, silence and solitude behind, out of hearing distance of the shadowy group of friends.

She waited awestruck, then came once more the distinct call "Theodora! help!"

Twice before in her life she had heard such calls: once when her twin brother aged ten met his death by drowning while bathing several miles away from her; and again when her mother in a runaway met with the accident which had since kept her an invalid.

She understood now. Something, she knew not what, had happened to Oliver Norman in which he needed her aid. With the strong desire which immediately arose in her soul to go at once to him, came the knowledge that somehow she could help him, and came also like a shock the revelation to herself that he held a power over her which no other man had ever held, which no other could hold.

She walked slowly back to her party which was ready to return, and was strangely silent during the drive homeward. The next morning, making the excuse that she wished to attend to some business for the club girls, she took the Old Colony train for Boston, and went directly to the publishing house. She went first to the floor where her own work had been; neither Mr. Staples nor Mr. Stilton seemed to be in.

Intending to return to Newport at once in case her imagination had played her false, she stepped inside the private office and wrote a note to leave for her father. A book of poems which she had loaned one of the girls, lay on the desk, open, with a passage marked; taking up one of the blotters she put it in the book as a mark, and taking the book with her she passed to the lower floor with a quick beating heart, hoping yet fearing to meet Mr. Norman. A glance around the room showed her that he was not there, but Ambrose Stilton came forward to meet her with an inexplicable look of triumph in his dark crafty eyes. She met him coldly and asked only for her father and was told he would not return until late in the afternoon. She asked Mr. Stilton to deliver her note if she did not see him. A little disappointed and fearing she had allowed herself to be too precipitous, she walked on Tremont street slowly homeward. The dear familiar common looked so shaded, so green, and so inviting that she decided as she reached the Park street entrance, to cross to Boylston street by way of it.

The fountain in the Frogpond was playing prettily and she stopped at one of the benches near by to rest and look at it. As she did so she saw Oliver Norman strolling in her direction. He was walking slowly with a dejected, perplexed air quite unlike his usual serenity. When nearly opposite he caught sight of her and came at once to her side with a strange look of relief.

TO BE CONCLUDED.

THE THEFT OF THE KOHINOOR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY J. REVIERA.

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WE were seeing the Tower of London. Our party consisted of myself, my wife, her sister Allie and Harry Ainsworth. We had been joined at the outset by three strangers, Londoners, judging from their appearance and talk—two men and a woman. This woman attracted me at first glance. She might be described as belonging to the lower fringe of the middle third of London's populace. There was that about her which a fastidious man might have called vulgar—a mouth that was just a little too straight, and the most piercing of black eyes. She was rather overdressed, too, but her face was strikingly handsome withal, and her figure was faultless. I thought of a tigress.

One of the men was a typical Englishman,

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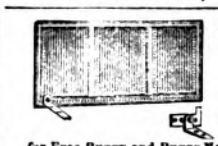


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florid and fat, and evidently one of those ubiquitous male monsters whose only aim is to live peacefully and quietly. He seemed to me to be exceedingly nervous.

The other man was an undersized fellow, who looked more like a Whitechapel tough than anything else, and whose only trouble seemed to be the good suit of clothes and collar he wore—a species of ornamentation to which he was apparently not accustomed.

As we reached the last exhibit of all, the Wakefield tower where the Regalia or Crown Jewels are kept, the warder who had us in charge, and whose one object seemed to be to finish as soon as possible, made it plain that we were to satisfy our curiosity as rapidly as might be consistent with good taste.

As we entered the hall I noticed casually an equestrian statue which stood just at the head of the stairway. It was of horse and man clad in full armor, and very like some of those on exhibition in the Armory. Why it was not there with the others I could not and cannot imagine. The young man whose clothes did not fit examined this relic with interest, and I noticed as we passed from the main hall into the long room where the glass cases containing the jewels are disposed, that he was loitering behind, still intent on his inspection.

It would be superfluous to say a word of the splendid exhibit, including the crowning glory of it all, the great diamond—the Kohinoor—even if I had given it sufficient attention to impress its splendors on my memory. But on the contrary I was busy watching the two strange men and the woman. Their actions had appeared suspicious from the first, and now they were doubly so.

Suddenly pandemonium cast loose in the hall outside. It was as if a whirlwind had visited a tin shop and was making sport with all the tinware together. The warder sprang through the door followed by Allie and my wife, with Harry close behind. I, too, started to follow, and then, prompted by some impulse, looked back. The woman threw up her hands and fell forward onto the glass case, which went to pieces with a crash; then she slid to the floor and struggled for an instant. The fattish man instead of going to her assistance started for the door. I ran to her and supported her head. There was a sound of hurrying footsteps and several warders ran in; one who appeared to be in authority ordered her to be taken up carefully and carried out into the hall, while the doors of the treasure room were locked.

Out in the hall we found that the clatter had been caused by the armored statue of horse and man, which had fallen down the whole length of the stone stairway. The woman was laid out on the floor and two of the warders were fanning her awkwardly, while a number of others stood about and offered good advice. The two men of the woman's party had disappeared completely.

I judged that we had had excitement enough for one afternoon, and so gathered my party and slipped away unobserved. Of course we discussed it and wondered over it, as we strolled along, until we found ourselves on the Strand, where we viewed the city at quitting time, when everybody was hurrying homeward. It was very entertaining. At last we came to a place where a crowd surrounded a bulletin. There seemed to be considerable excitement, and we understood several people to shout the word "Kohinoor." Harry tried to edge his way into the crowd in search of information, but unsuccessfully; just then a newsman came along bearing a placard announcing an extra edition of the *Gazette*, in staring letters:

THEFT OF THE KOHINOOR.
DARING ROBBERY.
Scotland Yard has a Clue.

I understood it all now; the nervousness of the man and the suspicious actions of all of them; the overthrow of the armored statue, which distracted attention while the woman broke the case and secured the priceless jewel. She had tossed it to the man, who made off at once. As we walked on toward the hotel I explained to the others how we had looked on while as bold a robbery as the annals of the police could show was being perpetrated.

"Not a word of this," I cautioned. "We don't want to be implicated, or dragged into court as witnesses at the best." And then we fell to discussing the robbery in all its phases, just as every one else in London was doing.

That night after dinner, the ladies having gone up-stairs, Harry and I started out to see something of the streets by night. The City proper is a dull place in the evening, and after a tramp of an hour or so we took a cab and drove over Whitechapel way. Even here there was little to be seen out of doors that was different from the sights at like time in similar parts of New York. We finally descended from the cab, and after dismissing the driver, proceeded on foot. In changing my clothes I had left all my money at the hotel, and found it necessary to call on Harry to foot the bill.

After tramping around for a bit we felt thirsty enough to patronize a low-looking bar room that stood conveniently open. It was very natural that we should be thirsty, and yet I have never been able to shake myself entirely free of the conviction that fate sent us after that beer.

An ill-favored bar-tender presided behind the counter, aided and abetted by a slouchy-looking young woman with her sleeves rolled up above her elbows. Several roughs lounged along the counter, and a number of others sat on more or less fragmentary chairs about the square room, the middle floor-space of which was occupied by a cripple who executed a shuffling dance. We got a pot of beer apiece and sat together on a bench against one of the walls, a flimsy partition with a door in it, and tried to enjoy the show. We had scarcely settled ourselves when there was an interruption. A man and a woman entered. She was closely veiled, and paused only long enough to nod at the bar-tender, before disappearing through the door near our bench. The loungers forgot the cripple and stared after her. But I was looking at her companion, who followed her through the door and slammed it shut. The woman's figure had struck me as familiar, but the man I positively recognized as he of the ill-fitting clothes at the Tower.

Interest centered in the dancer again, and I took the occasion to impart to Harry my conviction that these were two of the thieves of the Kohinoor. He was all excitement in an instant and wanted to run in and capture them regardless of consequences. But I was more prudent, and leaving him to keep watch sauntered carelessly out.

It is not so easy to find a cab in some parts of London as one might imagine, but finally I caught one and gave the driver orders to post for Scotland Yard. Then, recollecting that I had no money, I checked him long enough to tell him to make the Metropole first. We arrived and I started through the lobby toward the lift. Just as I passed the clerk's desk I heard him say, "There he goes now!" and the man to

THE MAN THAT WOMEN WRITE TO.

There's a man in Buffalo, who has without doubt, a larger number of women correspondents than any other person, man or woman, in the entire country. And yet not one in a thousand of the women who write have ever seen the man they write to. For after all it's not the *man* they write to but the *physician*. There's no sex in medicine. The physician with this extensive correspondence is Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y.

Undoubtedly Doctor Pierce owes his great popularity among women to his many and wonderful cures of that class of diseases known as "female troubles." To the treatment and cure of these diseases he has given over thirty years of his professional life, and has established himself as *the* specialist par excellence in the treatment of diseases peculiar to women.

The esteem in which Dr. Pierce is held by women is not to be wondered at when it is known that in the thirty years, and over, in which he has given attention to woman's diseases, he has, aided by his staff of nearly a score of experienced and skilled specialists, treated over a half a million women, and with such success that ninety-eight out of every hundred

DR. R. V. PIERCE AND SOME OF THE PROMINENT SPECIALISTS OF HIS STAFF.

treated have been absolutely and altogether cured.

Doubtless there are other reasons why multitudes of women consult Dr. Pierce by letter and as not the least among such reasons women would set down the friendly, even fatherly advice which the age and experience of Dr. Pierce enable him to give as supplemental to the advice and instructions of the physician. Women, also, are not slow to remember that Dr. Pierce, through his method of consultation by correspondence was the first physician to offer them relief from the unpleasant questions, the offensive examinations and the local treatments, generally inseparable from the treatment of diseases of women by local practitioners.

Of course, Dr. Pierce has had many imitators who steal the terms which his advertisements have made familiar, to use them as their "catch-words," and so to draw the attention of women in their direction. The most noticeable feature of these imitations is that, women with dangerous diseases are urged to consult by letter some one who is not a physician, and has neither the educational ability nor the legal right to treat disease. And sometimes, because it is impossible for these advertisers to lay claim to the title of physician, they raise a clamor of "write to a woman." "Woman understands woman," hoping doubtless by this artifice to draw away attention from the fact that they do not and cannot offer the advice of a qualified physician. But women are quick to see that *a woman unless educated in medicine and qualified to practice, can give no advice upon disease that would not be liable to be as dangerous as the disease itself.* For there is no place where ignorance is so dangerous as when it undertakes to meddle with a woman's health.

That class of advertisers who raise the cry of "write to a woman" are getting to be known as "bearded women," because the "woman in the case" is a mere figure-head, a stalking horse to shelter the man who preys on women's confidence. An example of the peculiarly preposterous claims made by these people, is found in the claim that a "man can't understand a woman—just because he is a man." The only way in which this can be interpreted as true is by accepting the statement in its bare literalness as of man and woman. But it is to be noticed that there is a vast difference when you qualify the terms man and woman by the term physician. How easy it would be for such advertisers to say, "write to a *woman physician* because a man physician cannot understand a woman, just because he is a man." How easy it would be to do this *if the "woman" who invites correspondence could or dared write M. D. after her name*, and even then, how preposterous the statement would remain. For two thousand years the practice of medicine has been entirely in the hands of men, as it is in general to-day. Woman in medicine is a new thing, so new that she has not entered to any known extent into the field of surgery. Whatever any woman practitioner has learned of medicine, she must have learned in schools, taught by men, and from books written by men. What a paradox therefore is presented in the claim that the man who has taught woman all she knows about medicine, does not know anything about medicine himself.

Women who are educated in medicine would be the first to laugh at such statements. It's only the woman of the advertisements, the "woman" for revenue only, and who is not a physician, who can afford to make such amazing and ridiculous claims.

But this side issue has led us somewhat a-field from Dr. Pierce and his great host of women correspondents. To these the doctor stands a sort of father confessor of things physical. Every letter is read privately, answered privately, and its contents guarded as sacredly as becomes such confessions. And as many women are naturally sensitive about their ailments even the replies are mailed, carefully and securely sealed in a perfectly plain envelope, without printing or advertising upon it, that there may be no third party to this correspondence.

Any sick woman can have the benefit of consultation by letter with Dr. Pierce absolutely without fee or charge of any kind.

More than half a million invalid women have been successfully treated by Doctor Pierce, aided by his staff of skilled specialists through the medium of correspondence. In this way disagreeable questionings and abhorent examinations and "local treatments" are avoided.

The world at large knows of Doctor Pierce, chiefly as the inventor of the two well-known remedies, Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription. And it is probably the case, that in general, Dr. Pierce's remedies are classed with all the other "patent medicines," and Dr. Pierce himself ranked with those "doctors" whose degrees are purely honorary or assumed, and no more stand for medical knowledge or experience, than the familiar title of "Major" in some sections of our country, signifies that the bearer of it is familiar with siege and battle. Dr. Pierce does not belong to the class of doctors whose titles are by courtesy only. He is a doctor by choice, a doctor by education, a doctor by practice and experience.

Dr. Pierce's remedies differ from most medicines, in the fact that they contain no alcohol, whiskey or other intoxicant, and are absolutely free from opium and every other narcotic drug. For no other medicine prepared exclusively for the use of women, as is "Favorite Prescription," can such a claim be truthfully made.

The difference between Dr. Pierce's establishment and all "patent medicine" establishments is very remarkable, and is apparent at once to every person who has had the opportunity of actually comparing Dr. Pierce's laboratory with that of any other institution. For instance, since Dr. Pierce has advertised to give free consultation by letter, many have imitated the advertisements and make an exactly similar offer. As far as the advertisements go they make just as good a showing as Dr. Pierce's. But go to these other establishments and ask to see the "doctor," who gives medical advice, and you'll find, nine times out of ten, that there is no doctor connected with the establishment. Compare this with Dr. Pierce's Institution, the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, with its staff of nearly a score of graduated and experienced doctors, busy every day in actual practice, its great special laboratory and dispensary, from which special medicines and auxiliary treatment are sent out daily to all parts of the country, its hospital with its surgical and mechanical appliances and operating rooms. In such a comparison you see at a glance that there is no institution equal to Dr. Pierce's in the whole country.

In the work of the World's Dispensary, and Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, there is real philanthropy as well as real medical and surgical skill. The best recognition of the philanthropic aspect of this work comes from the citizens of Buffalo, Dr. Pierce's home town, who elected him State Senator, and later gave him a seat in Congress. From the latter position Dr. Pierce resigned before the expiration of his term. That he should prefer to give up a high and honorable position in the councils of the Nation, to serve the sick, is conclusive evidence of his devotion to their interests and of love for his profession. Perhaps we can offer our readers no better summing up of Dr. Pierce and his work than that of President Garfield, who said, "He is one of the best men in the world, and he is at the head of one of the best institutions in the world."

whom this was addressed hurried after me. He touched me on the shoulder and said, "I am Inspector Smith of Scotland Yard, Mr. Gregory. I would like to speak to you." For an instant I was elated, and then remembering that we had reason to fear our connection with the escapade of the afternoon, my heart stood still. His first words sealed my doom. "You were at the Tower this afternoon!"

Before I could collect myself to reply, a man in uniform ran up to the Inspector and made some announcement in a whisper. The Inspector dropped me like a hot cake, and without so much as a word of explanation ran out of the hotel. I thought I was free but the man in uniform seemed to think otherwise. He caught me by the arm. "Come!" he said.

"What for?"

"H' ask no questions."

"Am I under arrest?"

"H'I dunno. Th' Inspector 'ad ye, h'and h'I h'aint goin' t' letcha go!"

So we went, and got into a cab (not my cab) and were soon tearing down into Whitechapel. Eventually we pulled up at the very barroom where I had left Harry on watch. But before describing the scene that took place on our arrival I will let Harry relate what happened during my absence, as he recounted it to me later.

"After you stepped out," said Harry, "I discovered that by resting my head against the partition at my back I could catch the hum of voices on the other side, very subdued. There was so much noise out around the bar that I could at first make nothing of the dialogue within. Just then in comes a man who is no other than the one you call the husband of the woman—the fattish man as you call him. He had in tow a Sheeny—second-hand clothing man, fence, pawn-broker or whatever you like. The fattish man motioned the Jew to a chair and went and knocked at the door near my seat. They let him in and I heard the woman cry—sort of soft—'Have you got it? have you got it?'

"He must have handed her something for she said, 'Oh, my beauty, my beauty! Millions of dollars! And you bring the Jew?'

"'Fetch him outside.'

"'Bring him in!'

"The man opened the door and beckoned to the pawnbroker. When they had him inside I heard him cry, 'The Kohinoor! You haf steal t' Kohinoor!' There was a gurgle as though some one had caught him by the throat and I heard the woman say, 'Not a word, you hound! Peach and you're a dead Jew. Now tell me what that is worth and how we can get rid of it.'

"'You can't not sell that,' was the reply. 'Unless——'

"'Unless what?'

"'Unless you cut him up. And you muss take him out of Englan' to do it.'

"'You gotter divvy with h'us before you take that h'out of h'England,' growled the fattish man's voice.

"'If it suits me I will take it,' retorted the woman sharply. "But it doesn't. Couldn't we break it?" this to the Jew.

"'Yuss—with a hammer.'

"You can guess, Gregory, that I was wild at hearing that. But I was afraid to do anything. They got a hammer from the bar-tender and I heard one of them pound the stone several times, while the woman stood and said, 'Careful! careful!'

"Then the stone broke and from the expressions of satisfaction it was just right. One of them said there must be a hundred pieces. The woman ordered the two men to go and bring in 'all those cursed fences' she had spoken to. They both went, and after some time the fattish man returned with several Jews, and then the smaller man with some others. They all filed into the room and there was some whispering. I judged that the woman unwrapped the cloth in which they had broken the stone; then I heard a sound—Hoo-hoo—like somebody laughing.

"'What's the matter, you ape?' demanded the woman.

"'It's glass!' said the voice of the first Jew.

"'Glass!'

"There was a shuffling sound as they moved forward to look, and then they laughed too. The woman screamed and there was another sound as though some one had fallen in a faint. And just then you came in, while I was still sitting there listening."

As Harry said, he was sitting on the bench by the partition when my captor and I entered. All the loungers were staring at the partition door, aroused by the woman's scream. Just then the window behind the bar burst open and Inspector Smith plunged through followed by several constables, while a number of them came in from the street. There was instant uproar, which redoubled when they broke into the side room.

The littlest man butted down two policemen and escaped. The fattish man broke through the door and gave Harry a chance to knock him down with a chair. The woman fought like the tigress I had thought her. When she was finally subdued, the inspector had a clawed face and a broken finger.

"The diamond is imitation," I said, as he emerged into the bar.

"I had thought as much," he said. "They would hardly put the real gem on exhibition. But we've got the woman—an American, and the smoothest the Yankees ever produce!!

"I am sorry my man inconvenienced you," he continued. "I did not mean for him to bring you along. You and your party will prove valuable witnesses; you intend to stay in London, of course."

"We came with the intention of staying two weeks," I replied guardedly. And then we said goodnight.

"We are going to France," I announced, on reaching the hotel. "Neither of you ladies want any police-court notoriety, and the warders will be good enough witnesses." We went.

"And to think," said Allie, as our steamer drew into the harbor of Calais, "that woman was an American!"

"'English they be and Japanee
That hang on the Brown Bear's flank,
And some be Scot, but the worst, God wot,
And the boldest thieves be Yank!'"

THE MAN IN THE UPPER BERTH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. N. STEVENS.

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THERE are still many people in western Pennsylvania who remember well the celebrated case of Crayfoot vs. Sinclair. Not only was it one of the hardest fought legal battles of the times, but the verdict, based on the eleventh hour technicality proved a most overwhelming surprise even to the victorious counsel for the defense.

For many reasons not here necessary to explain, the experience had been one of a particularly trying nature to myself. I had, however, borne up well during the heat of conflict, but no sooner had the enormous strain been removed than I felt myself the veriest wreck, both mentally and physically.

Tormented by forebodings of a serious illness, my only thought was to reach home at the earliest possible moment after the completion of my legal duties.

Court adjourned *sine die* at 4.30 P. M. The first train out was four hours later, an express making but two intermediate stops, one at Altruria, the other at Hammersburg.

Therefore it was that 8.15 P. M. found me in waiting at the depot and my associate members of the bar attending a banquet which had at the last moment been tendered them by prominent townspeople.

The train was late and as I paced the floor restlessly I was electrified to see our client, Sinclair, elbowing his way through the crowded waiting room. He approached me hurriedly.

"Here, Cartwright, do me a favor, will you? Just take this into the office in the morning. There's an even ten thousand and they'll need it before noon. Came near forgetting it!"

I could hardly refuse to take charge of the money, though I must confess to no slight degree of nervousness when it was once in my possession. And, too, I felt irritated in the extreme that he had not chosen some less conspicuous place in which to make known his errand. Even while he was speaking I had noticed one man of sinister countenance watching us with strange intentness. And though no coward, a sensation of mingled depression and annoyance laid so strong and immediate hold upon me that for the moment I would have hailed with relief any reasonable excuse for deferring my trip till morning.

But my berth in the sleeper was already engaged, I had telegraphed my wife when she might for a certainty expect me and there seemed no good reason for delay. I threw off my momentary uneasiness as best I could and laughed at myself as weak and womanish!

Once in the car my first attention was directed toward my vis-a-vis who also boarded the train at Pittston.

A cadaverous face, almost livid in its pallor, with evil-looking, deep-set, black eyes, did not serve to prepossess me in his favor. I was rather impressed with a disagreeable sense of remembrance, though for the moment I did not place him.

He was tall and muscular and though noticeably thin his long, bony arms gave evidence of great strength. "A villainous-looking specimen." was my mental comment, and almost involuntarily I placed my hand on the breast pocket wherein reposed the money.

The movement was illy timed, for at the very same moment he raised his eyes, and in an instant a peculiar gleam shot across his face. It was gone almost as soon as noted, but I had the satisfaction of knowing that if I had for one second been caught off my guard, even so had he. He was the man I had noticed in the depot! He addressed one or two remarks to me but I was not socially inclined. He had an unusually pleasing voice—the voice of a good man, and singularly not in keeping with his face. He offered me the evening paper. I declined it with scant courtesy. Then he beckoned to the porter with whom he seemed on semi-confidential terms. They conversed for some minutes in subdued tones, and from their frequent, furtive glances in my direction I had no difficulty in divining their topic of conversation. The man had seen Sinclair give me the package, and had doubtless overheard his request. He was now planning with the negro how best to secure the money!

I must admit that I felt more disturbed than I cared to confess even to myself. I sized up the other passengers. It chanced oddly enough that although the car was crowded there were not all told half a dozen men present.

The porter went his way and his confederate leaned back in apparent slumber. I was not to be deceived. I knew he was watching me as a cat watches a mouse and not for one minute did I relax my vigilance!

At ten o'clock we both retired. My neighbor, who by the way occupied the upper berth, settled himself at once.

In spite of previous weariness I had no thought of sleep, and all through the early hours of the night I lay with every muscle tense, every sense alert. But I could hear nothing beyond the gentle, monotonous hum-m-m of the cars along the rails.

Occasionally I felt rather than heard the porter creeping softly—it seemed to me stealthily—along between the berths.

At Altruria there was some slight commotion caused by the few passengers who left the cars at that point. The stop was not long but hardly had the cars started again when my curtains were pushed softly aside and the porter peered within. I faced him with a fierceness as startling as it must have been unexpected!

"Beg pardon, sah! Is this for you, sah?" and he held a telegram toward me.

I hastily tore open the envelope and by the dim light read the message. It was from my wife.

"Meet me at Hammersburg.

Helen."

I stared in wide-eyed astonishment! There was surely some mistake. I looked again at the superscription. "John M. Cartwright. To be delivered at Altruria." My name most certainly, and only my wife knew that I was to be on this train.

I read the message over and over again, each time more mystified than before. This new and unexpected turn in my affairs completely eclipsed all else! My friend in the upper berth, the unwelcome money, the scheming porter, all were alike forgotten!

Helen was not a woman of impulse. Coming from her the telegram meant business, of what nature I was unable to determine. There was no alternative, and I made hasty preparations to leave the train at Hammersburg.

I can not tell whether or not I really expected to find Helen in waiting for me at the station. My mind was in so chaotic a state I do not think I had formulated any expectations. At all events she was not there, neither was there any messenger from her.

Indeed, the whole station seemed singularly deserted. Only one or two employes were about and they answered my anxious queries brusquely and were off. And much to my discomfiture the solitary carriage which had been waiting upon my arrival, also disappeared!

I looked about me undecidedly. The electric lights gleamed pale and cold, but beyond their circle of light all was darkest gloom. Three miles distant the lights of the town glimmered faintly. Doubtless my wife was awaiting me there.

All fatigue, all nervousness was swallowed up in my anxiety for her welfare! I buttoned my coat closely over the package of money and prepared to walk the distance.

I had hardly stepped into the darkness when I became aware that some one was approaching from the rear. Some laborer, I thought, whose company would be preferable to none, and I glanced backward with a positive feeling of relief.

In the dim light I could see the figure of a man who walked with loose, shambling gait. As he came nearer I perceived that he was no laborer, but evidently a traveler like myself. He was headed straight towards me, and I paused and faced him.

His manner puzzled me. He came with head bent forward and hat slouched well over his eyes. He took no apparent notice of my presence till within ten feet of me.

Then he stopped suddenly and pushed his hat backward. One glance at the deep-set, glittering eyes, at the livid face, at the bony frame, and I started back as though struck by an electric current! The man in the upper berth stood before me!

For one moment I was as one paralyzed. Then as I fully realized that I had been the victim of a hellish plot, the calmness of despair settled upon me.

I attempted to speak. He looked at me steadily with those horrible eyes and my tongue refused to move. I tried to raise my hand. In vain!

It seemed to me an eternity that we stood facing each other, when I suddenly knew that I was becoming unconscious. I felt no shock, no hurt, no blow, I experienced no sensations other than those of fading vision and failing strength.

* * * * * *

I recovered consciousness to find myself bound hand and foot! I could make no sound—a gag had been thrust into my mouth; and I could move only my head. By turning it from side to side I saw that I was in a room brightly lighted, and unfurnished save for what seemed to be a long table or bench upon which I was laid flat.

From an adjoining room I could hear the sound of two voices, one, a man's, low, deep, and musical; the other, a woman's tearful and pleading. Both voices were distinct, and despite my daze and bewilderment, I had a faint comprehension that both were familiar.

I remember that I tried to raise my head. As it fell back with a dull thud, there was sudden crash, the door was flung open, and a woman sprang toward me!

Her eyes were red, her hair disordered, and her face swollen and distorted from much weeping, but I knew her, my God! only too well! It was my wife! She knelt by my side sobbing wildly.

And behind her, creeping stealthily, came a man! Again—there was no mistaking that face, those eyes—the man in the upper berth!

He came nearer and nearer, his eyes fixed steadily upon Helen. He raised his hand as if to strike down, and I—I was powerless to prevent!

I shall never forget the supreme agony of that moment! The sweat stood in cold drops upon my brow. Every muscle stood out like a cord, every sinew was strained to its utmost tension!

I made one superhuman effort! I arose, I wrenched my hands asunder, I—awoke!

The porter was shaking me vigorously. "Half an hour to Franklin, sah!"

I looked at him in a stupefied manner. He repeated himself and turned to go. Mechanically I felt for the package of money. It was safe.

I glanced upward. I knew instinctively that the berth was empty. I leaned forward and beckoned the porter back.

"The man in the upper berth?" I questioned.

"Got off at Hammersburg, sah."

"Who was he?" I demanded.

"The Reverend Mr. Brascombe, pastor of The Heavenly Rest, sah!"

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A GRUESOME BOLSTER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY R. B. BUCKHAM.

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WHEN in 1867 the territory of Alaska was purchased by the United States, there were those who were positive that Russia had made the best of the bargain in spite of the fact that most of the $7,200,000 purchase money was used in St. Petersburg to satisfy old debts and obligations incurred by Alaskan enterprises, attorneys' fees, etc., so that Russia really gave her American possessions to us without reaping any direct profit from the transfer. Alaska would prove of no value whatever to us even so, such confidently asserted, but the attention which this region has recently received as a result of the discovery of gold within its borders has revealed to the public at large that it is in reality a priceless possession. Alaska is indeed a wonderful country; its rockbound hills possess a grandeur unparalleled; its sea fisheries are a mine of limitless wealth; its forests the densest and most valuable on the continent; and its mineral resources are incalculable.

But to the casual visitor the most wonderful thing in all Alaska is the quaintness of the people which inhabit it, the Esquimaux. There are eleven tribes of them in all, stretching from the region of Sitka in the south to the ice-bound shores of the Arctic regions on the north. Of these the Haidas are the fairest skin, most

CURE DRUNKARDS.

ELOQUENT WORDS FROM A WIFE WHO RESCUED HER HUSBAND FROM A TERRIBLE HABIT.

Secretly Gave Him a Remedy in His Coffee and He Now Rejoices With Her.

Who can doubt that there is a cure for *drunkenness* when we have such an eloquent and emphatic statement from Mrs. Katie Lynch, 329 Ellis St. San Francisco, Cal., she says:—My husband was a hard drinker. There was never a doubt in my mind



MRS. KATIE LYNCH.

but what liquor had so worked upon his nerves as to actually control his appetite. Like most men who drink he was kind and generous when sober but the rum demon usually had the better of him and his wife had to suffer. One day I concluded to try a remedy called Golden Specific, which it was said would cure the liquor habit secretly. So I mixed some of it with Mr. Lynch's food for a few days and put a little in his coffee. I could scarcely conceal my agitation and fearless he should suspicion me for he had suddenly taken a dislike to liquor, said he despised the stuff, and was the most remarkably changed man you ever saw. I kept bravely at it determined not to waver in my attempt to cure him and I soon found out that my mission was a complete success and that Golden Specific had wrought almost a miracle for me. I want other women to profit by my example and am glad to learn that Dr. Haines, who discovered Golden Specific, will generously send a free trial package to every woman who writes for it.

Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 886 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, O., and if you wish you are at liberty to refer to me as having told you about this marvelous remedy.



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intelligent and best dispositioned, while Innuits inhabiting the vast region from the Yukon to the Polar Sea are still for the most part savages, practically unaltered by contact with the white man, and still living as did their ancestors from time immemorial. These people still use the spear and bow and arrow of a remote ancestry, live on the flesh of fish and wild animals, and dwell in underground huts appearing from without like little rounded mounds of earth or snow. They know no law, and never have, but unlike the native Indians of the great plains of the United States are comparatively peaceable, and offer no injury unless provoked.

They are quite nomadic in their habits, often wandering many hundreds of miles from their homes, and thus it comes about that occasionally one of them will reach the haunts of the white man. If a dispute should happen to arise on these chance visits or liquor be at hand, that fearful curse of the uncivilized peoples of all countries, trouble is quite sure to follow, not infrequently ending in crime. Such an incident occurred during my stay at Fort Yukon some years ago, an Innuit having committed murder and almost immediately fled to his home in the Arctics. From the circumstances of the case it was deemed necessary that he should be captured at any cost, and for want of a more suitable deputy, I, being somewhat familiar with the Innuit language and having seen the fellow, was commissioned to secure him and bring him back to the fort, dead or alive.

It was then late in the fall, the long northern winter had already set in, and the ground was covered deep with snow; but journeying by sledge was comparatively easy, and I at once set out, confident that I should fall in with a band of Innuit hunters before having gone far, from whom I could doubtless ascertain the whereabouts of the object of my quest. In this hope I was not disappointed, for at the end of the third days' journey I fell in with a company of these little men of the far north returning from their fall hunt in the mountains. Yes, they knew of whom I spoke, Nougishgac was his name, but he had already gone on to the village. However, they invited me to continue on in their company, as he had been one of their number and could doubtless easily be found. What a different reception would have been mine had they in the least suspected the errand upon which I was bent.

After some days' journeying we came at last in sight of a number of low, snow domes huddled together on the bank of a broad river flowing toward the northern sea, the home of the Innuits. Immediately upon our arrival we learned that Nougishgac was dead, having been killed some days before in a quarrel over a walrus skin. The family clan of which he was a member were in the midst of the days of mourning over his decease, and in accordance with Innuit custom, I, coming in quest of the departed, must become the honored guest of his nearest relative!

The season of mourning for the dead among these strange people continues twenty days, during which time the relatives of the deceased abstain from all labor and amusement, and sit motionless in their huts with long drawn faces, in which ceremony the guest is expected also to participate.

Any one who has ever been within an Esquimau hut with its lack of fresh air, unpleasant odors and choking smoke from the huge, constantly burning stone lamp, can readily imagine that the prospect with which I found myself confronted was not a pleasant one. But to have declined to share the hospitality of the mourners would have been a breach of long established custom dangerous in its consequences, and as it would be necessary for me to remain in the village long enough to verify beyond doubt the truth of Nougishgac's reported death and that no fraud was being perpetrated upon me, I could not but accept the situation with as good a grace as possible.

The first night of my stay or rather that portion of the almost endless night devoted to sleep, I managed to endure comparatively well, though with almost sleepless eyes. Our couch, shared by my host and myself alike, consisted of but a layer of poles merely, to raise our bodies above the damp earth; but our pillow was a huge bolster, five feet or more in length, enclosed in a parka, or cloak, and far from soft. Fain would I have slept with none at all, rather than this ungainly affair, but my host would hear to nothing else than that I should rest my head upon it, and I was finally compelled to humor him in this regard in order to maintain peace and friendship.

Our period of sleep was over at last, and I returned again to a sitting posture while my companion proceeded to throw back the end of the parka enclosing our pillow, and gaze steadfastly upon it. I was overcome with abject horror upon observing that it was a human corpse! Then it was that it recurred to me that when an Innuit dies in the fall or winter, it being impossible to bury or burn the dead, his relatives preserve the body until spring, carrying it about from place to place with them, and through some unaccountable superstition using it as a pillow at night and looking upon its features each morning upon awakening.

A second discovery which I then made startled me not a little also. The pallid face before me, though disfigured and distorted as the result of the alternate freezing and thawing which it had undergone from the cold and proximity to the oil lamp, was nevertheless easily to be distinguished as that of Nougishgac.

The hours which slowly dragged themselves away from the time of our arising were, quite naturally under the circumstances, devoted as far as I was concerned to devising some means of making my escape from the gruesome hut and the company of the Innuits, and if my face wore as anxious and disturbed an expression that morning as did that of the mourning relative, it was not due to any attempt on my part to demonstrate grief over the death of the deceased. What would I not have given at that time for a breath of the fresh, pure air of heaven; to be out again in the sunshine of the winter day, of so short duration though it was; or to have been safely back at the fort again!

It is the practice of the Innuit males, during their long enforced term of winter idleness, to resort each day at some time during the brief hours of sunlight to the kashga, or house of public meeting, a hut of much larger proportions than any of the others, capable of holding quite a number of persons at one time. When all have assembled a fire is kindled and the coals sprinkled with water until the hut is filled with clouds of vapor. Then all throw off their garments and dance wildly about in the steam; beating and flogging themselves with reeds and whips until utterly exhausted with the exertion and the profuse perspiration which ensues, they fall to the floor, or unable to endure the heat longer make their way out to roll in the snow. This is the most enjoyable experience of any in the life of the Innuit, and nothing could induce him to absent himself from this performance; even the mourners for the dead cannot restrain their desire to be present, and so it came about that along in the afternoon my host began to display ever increasing symptoms of uneasiness, and finally prepared to absent himself from the hut.

Nothing that he was able to offer could persuade me to accompany him, for well I knew what was about to take place; then, too, here was an opportunity for which I had been anxiously waiting and which I did not propose to allow to escape me unimproved. No sooner had my entertainer disappeared down the long underground passageway which constitutes the exit of an Esquimeau hut, than I began active preparations for a hasty flight. At that moment a plan flashed through my brain which I proceeded to put into execution immediately. I would obey my orders to the letter and take the Innuit pillow with me.

The attempt which I was about to make was a hazardous one and would end disastrously with me if unsuccessful, but with the exercise of the utmost caution I hoped to accomplish it in safety. My first precaution was to remove the parka in which the body of Nougishgac was wrapped, fill it with well packed snow and return it to its customary place, that thus the theft which I had perpetrated might not be discovered until the following morning, when upon the opening of the parka my treachery would become apparent. Then cautiously dragging my burden down the long passage, I concealed it among the baggage on my sled without.

Not a soul was in sight as I emerged from the passage door, and if I could but succeed in harnessing my dogs and get well under way before the return of the men from the kashga, I was comparatively safe, as my dogs had no superiors in the village. To catch them, however, was no easy undertaking, as they were scattered about the village with those of the Innuits; but a low whistle cautiously repeated now and then brought them together at last and I was finally on the move.

As I approached the kashga I could hear the muffled shouts of the men at the dance within, and even as I passed its entrance two of their number scrambled out and plunged themselves into the snow, but being blinded with the terrible smoke of the hut's interior or with snow which may have gotten into their eyes, they failed to notice me and I passed on unchallenged.

Whether my host slept on his snow pillow or not, and what his sensations were upon discovering the nature of its contents I never heard, nor am I aware whether or not the chase after me was taken up, or how long and fierce it was; but I do know that upon finally arriving at the fort in safety and delivering up my burden, I was well rewarded for my faithful performance of my duty.

PAP'S VALENTINE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY S. E. GANNETT.

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PAP, can I have Nance this morning? I want to go to town."

"Go to town, daughter? It must be something pretty desprit to take you to town with the roads in this state." And the man, a long, lean, sallow Arkansas farmer by the name of Bayles, who was at the moment busily engaged in holding up the doorpost while he gave his teeth their after-breakfast picking, glanced along the corduroy road deep in February mud.

"Why, you see, Pap," and the girl hesitated, "next week comes Valentine's day, an'—an'—"

"Good land!" muttered the man to himself, as he stared at the girl, taking in the witching dark eyes and rosy, dimpled face framed in its clustering curls, "ef she bean't a'growing up a'ready! Seems like 'tain't but a year or two sence I was a'buying valentines for her Maw, an'—now—here's Mirandy's been dead this two year, an' this baby—why, how old be you, now, Maisie?"

"Sixteen, Pap; don't you remember I told you last week I'd got a birthday?"

"Yes, yes, but I can't believe it. You're as old as your Maw was when I was a'cotin' her, sure enough. Well, who is the lucky one to be?"

The girl gave her head a toss, and her merry laugh rang out as she answered:

"Nare a one, Pap, but they's two of 'em is dead sure I'll send to him and to nobody else, and I'm—"

"Ho! Goin' to fool 'em both, be you? Well, go on. Young folks must have their fling; but I wish *my* valentine hadn't had to leave me quite so soon." And he glanced wistfully around at the disorderly room, the unswept floor and dirty windows, and then out at the group of frowsy, uncared-for children playing in the yard.

The girl saw the look and bit her lip.

"Pap can't expect me to give up all my fun and stay at home just to grub round," she muttered. "I'd be an old woman in no time if I did. I want to have a good time like the other girls," and then, as her father slowly and dispiritedly strolled away to his day's work she hastily cleared the breakfast table, called to a younger sister to help her, made a few preparations for dinner, and leaving everything else in the care of twelve year old Jennie, she mounted Nance and rode off to town, gingerly through the awful mud. A few twinges of conscience troubled her as she remembered neglected duties, but she quickly stifled them, and rode on.

"Howdye, Maisie!" shouted a gay young voice as she dismounted at the village store. "Goin' to the Valentine party next week?"

"Haven't heard anything about it. Where is it at?" replied Maisie calmly.

"Sure enough? Why, it is to be here in the village at Betty Wilder's. You'll get an invite, I know. Swell thing it's going to be. Say, here's your note now," as the postmaster handed Maisie her mail. "Now you'll let *me* see you home that night, won't you? Don't you go with Dick Somers, whatever happens."

"I shan't promise. I'll have to think over the matter a bit first," and with a word to Nance, Maisie cantered off, leaving Tom Birdsall ruefully glowering at Dick Somers, who, on horseback, was hastening in Maisie's direction.

Valentine's day came with a most unusual sight for Arkansas—a furious snowstorm—and by evening the ground was white with snow. The mud beneath was frozen in deep ruts, making traveling anything but pleasant; but no matter! Such a chance for a sleigh ride did not occur in this locality once in a winter, and all were disposed to make the most of their opportunities. Both Somers and Birdsall had hastily constructed for themselves sleighs of dry-goods boxes mounted on rude wooden runners, and each of them having received that morning a gay and flimsy lace affair ycleept a valentine, adorned with cupids, hearts and arrows galore, and vowing

"To be ever true
To only you! to only you!"

thought Maisie had surely made *him* her "lover true," and hastened to present himself, with his elegant "rig," at her home in readiness to drive her to the scene of the party.

Maisie's eyes danced with fun as she saw them drive into the yard at the same time, glowering at each other as they came on; but her face was grave and concerned as she opened the door and cried:

"Oh, how could I have been so careless! I certainly thought, I—well, never mind now! I am not going to say, as long as both of you are here, *which* of you I asked to come for me to-night. I thought I sent a note, but since I did not I'll have to ask Dick to drive me over and Tom to bring me home. Won't that do?" and the bewitching face, framed in its soft pink hood, smiled brightly upon both the young men.

There seemed to be no other way out the difficulty; so, although each of the young men scowled blackly upon the other, Tom turned his horse and drove off, while Dick helped Maisie over the side of his dry-goods box, and tucked his mother's shawl, which served as a robe, carefully about her before following Tom's lead.

The evening passed merrily. The gay little god of love showered his favors, consisting of cakes, bonbons and souvenirs, impartially upon all, and punch flowed so freely that, as the hour for breaking up drew near, many of the young men were decidedly in need of an escort instead of performing that service for the ladies.

Dick, disappointed in his hope of seeing Maisie home, had grown more and more surly as the evening wore on, and the more punch he imbibed the gruffer he became. Instead of driving off by himself, or choosing another lady than Maisie for company, he kept near Tom's sleigh, and did all he could to make his and Maisie's ride uncomfortable.

At length they reached a narrow part of the road, where the earth, washed away by the heavy rains of that part of the country, dropped suddenly down to a depth of twenty feet, with no railing to protect its edge. Dick, who had driven ahead of the other team, suddenly turned, lashing his horse to a gallop, and bore straight down, in his drunken rage, upon the other horse, which reared, plunged, and backed to the edge of the precipice. Tom, finding all efforts to stop him unavailing, flung the reins over the dashboard and leaped to safety, leaving Maisie to her fate.

Quick as a flash, however, the girl sprang forward on the edge of the box, balanced herself there a second, and, by another quick leap, reached the back of the frightened horse, and, seizing the trailing reins, with a sharp cut of the whip forced him forward to firm ground. Then, sliding to the road, in spite of all Tom's solicitations and apologies, she set off afoot for home, deigning neither a look nor a word to her cowardly escort.

Maisie got no sleep that night, but spent the time in reviewing in her mind the conduct of her two cavaliers and of herself. She was very subdued and thoughtful at the breakfast table, and made but short answers to the questions of her father and the children as to the events of the preceding night. As to the ride home she said not a word to any one.

At noon that day, as he came in to dinner, Farmer Bayles was astonished to see the kitchen shining with cleanliness, the table neatly set and covered with a tempting dinner, and surrounded by the children with clean hands and faces and nicely combed hair, while Maisie, following him into the washhouse shyly said:

"Tom and Dick are neither one of them any good, Pap. I'm going to be *your* valentine if you'll have me?"

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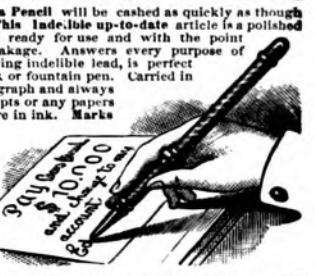
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SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.

Our New Colonies and Interests.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE greatest interest now attaches itself to the construction of the Nicarauguan canal, which should be at once pushed to a finish and completely under American control. One drawback to the construction of this canal has been a provision in the Clayton-Bulwer treaty between this country and England by which both nations agreed that when such a canal should be built it should be under joint protection of America and England and necessarily under joint control. The mutual jealousies of the two countries have tended to show each other that the division of importance was not equal and that one nation would receive more advantage than the other with its completion. The present attitude of England indicates that the outcome of the Spanish War has rendered an early construction of the canal of first and greatest importance to the United States, and she seems ready to let our country undertake the work alone and without hindrance, by the abolishment of this treaty.

The attention of our people was called to the great necessity of a canal when the battleship *Oregon* made her famous run from San Francisco to Florida, and being obliged to traverse the South American coast on both sides and make frequent landings for supplies and coal, which would have been unnecessary had there been a canal either at Nicaragua or still further down at the Isthmus of Panama. The idea of a canal is by no means new, for ever since the discovery of gold in California in 1849, and even earlier, there have been such enterprises projected.

For many years the favorite location for such a canal has been across the Isthmus of Panama, and many schemes have been devised for such a canal. Even the idea of immense dry docks on wheels to convey steamers bodily across was seriously contemplated. The great De Lesseps canal to be constructed by a French company at one time was apparently the successful one; but wasteful extravagance and poor business if nothing worse entirely wrecked this company, and to-day the immense work is the same as abandoned.

Farther up on the continent is Nicaragua and a glance at the map will show that here the land is much wider than at the Isthmus, but it has certain natural advantages. Half way across the continent is an immense lake, called by the name of the country, from which the San Juan river flows easterly to the Gulf of Mexico at the port of Greytown.

Opposite the middle of the lake on the Pacific coast is the harbor of Brito. The most thorough survey ever made has now caused the United States Commissioners to adopt what is called the "low level" route. The so-called Maritime route contemplated practically following the San Juan river to the lake as a shorter distance; but the Lull "low level" survey starts from Greytown and takes advantage of certain low levels which make eleven miles longer to the lake, which is forty-two miles from Greytown on the Maritime route. Part of the way will be lake navigation and the entire distance, including the lake travel, from Greytown to Brito is one hundred and eighty-two miles. It is estimated the canal will cost $184,000,000 complete and will probably be built under government supervision. The project has been debated and postponed times without number, but with our present territorial interests delays are no longer possible and without doubt the present Congress will take steps to have active work on the construction of this waterway taken at once.

The government of the United States has not taken Cuba as a part of her possessions but under the treaty of peace is responsible for the maintenance of order and peace within that country. The position of Cuba to-day is very much the same as that of the Confederate States after the Civil War in our own country. There is neither a responsible government of Cubans, nor has the Spanish government any more authority, having vacated the island; and as a consequence the only form of government that is at present maintained is the military government of the United States.

The President of the United States appoints a Governor General of Cuba, who is invested with supreme authority and really represents the government of the United States until a stable government shall have been formed and given possession by our country. This provisional government went into effect on the first of January, 1899, at which time with due military pomp and ceremonies the Spanish flag floating over public buildings was lowered, and received the usual military salutes; to be immediately replaced by the American flag, which was also saluted by both armies.

To this extremely important position President McKinley has nominated Major General John R. Brooke who, our readers will remember, was in command of the army of invasion at Porto Rico; and but for the sudden signing of the protocol of peace would have captured San Juan as he had already done Ponce and other places. His army was just deploying for a battle at the time the aide galloped up to General Brooke and presented the order for peace, an order which is said to have filled the American soldiers with feelings of bitterest disappointment so anxious were they to encounter the Spanish soldiery, who were equally anxious to test their own merits.



GENERAL WOOD.

It will be remembered that the island of Cuba is divided into six provinces, the names of which are familiar to all newspaper readers, as they have been in the press reports for the last few years during the insurrection, and consequently are familiar both as to name and locality. Each of these provinces has its own military governor who serves under Governor General Brooke. Major General Fitzhugh Lee,



SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

who left Havana at the outbreak of the war, amid the jeers and execration of the populace, and who from the deck of the departing steamer called to them that he would return, now has the opportunity to make good his prophecy, as he has been appointed the governor of the province of Havana, which is the most important province of the island both commercially and because within it is Havana, the capital city. At the head of the military government of the city of Havana is Major General William Ludlow. He is under the supervision of General Lee and subordinate to him, exactly as General Lee is subordinate to General Brooke; but the position is a most important one as all the details of the city government, police and sanitary regulations, and all such municipal details are under his immediate direction. General Ludlow was at one time Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and it was in this capacity that he first came under the President's notice. He has great ability and experience, and being a civil engineer of the highest rank will have the necessary qualifications for practical administration in the completion of the sanitary and municipal improvements which are to be undertaken in the city and harbor of Havana.

Few of our readers comprehend the vast importance of this military government. Cuba is undoubtedly the richest island in the world; of the greatest natural resources and inexhaustible soil it has been well termed the Garden of the Antilles. For centuries it has been milked of its riches by outrageous taxation by the Spanish government, which has looked upon the island as fair prey. Its people have been kept in a state of illiteracy and subjugation hard for Americans to comprehend. The conduct of the native Cubans during the war would seem to prove that they are utterly unfit at the present time for self-government; nor would it be right towards the Spaniards, who form the best part of the population of the island, to let loose a mob of native Cubans upon them without restraint. The American who has been in Cuba has no sentimental idea about that population, and knows that while many Cubans are highly cultured and fine specimens of manhood and womanhood, the great bulk of Cubans are hardly up to the standard of modern civilization.

Having driven the Spaniards out of Cuba, it became necessary then for the United States, without desire for conquest, to take possession of the island until such time as it can be seen what will be the best for the future. The same rule has been applied in hundreds of instances, and even now there are countries which are not British colonies where it is impossible to maintain practically an English protectorate in order that the native government shall carry out the wishes and intentions of England, and give justice to all people within their borders. That some such solution of the problem will be necessary with Cuba nobody doubts; and with the great influx of American capital and American interests which will certainly follow the ratification of the present peace treaty, the financial and material interests of the island will be largely in the hands of British and American people within two or three years. It would be as much folly to expect that under such circumstances the final government of Cuba will be given into the hands of people adverse to the interests of the United States, as to expect entire surrender of State government to the colored population at the present time in the South; and our readers may be sure that a firm military government will be maintained

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17.)

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A Bear Hunt in the Himalayas.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE is one part of British India, where you may enjoy fine sport in the midst of magnificent scenery and a splendid climate for nine months of the year, and that is the Himalayan hills, between the altitudes of 5,000, and 10,000 feet; below 5,000 it is too hot at times, and above 10,000 it is equally too cold.

Some of the best bear hunting I ever had was in company with the old Kumaon rajah, the Goorkha king whose territory had been annexed by the English forty years ago (when he was quite a boy) and who has ever since lived quietly in his own capital on a pension of $3,000 per annum from the British Government. It is a remarkable instance of the aptitude of the English for conquest that they should have taken by force of arms this ancient kingdom of Kumaon, and held it peaceably ever since, though it is not garrisoned by a single British soldier, the only troops in it being generally two battalions of its own people in the pay of the British Government.

I had made the acquaintance of the Kumaon rajah by having been fortunate enough to relieve him from a very unpleasant position. I was out shooting pheasants in a rhododendron forest when I heard loud shouts, and on hastening to the spot I found the Kumaon rajah up a tree, his gun lying on the ground, which he had evidently dropped in climbing; and at the foot of the tree a large black she-bear with a broken foreleg, who could not climb the tree, but was scratching and snarling in a most unpleasant way. I relieved him by neatly putting a bullet through the brute's heart as it stood on its hind legs snarling at the rajah; since which he had always sent word to me when he heard of any "shikar" and of course he always got the first information from the country people who knew his devotion to the sport.

I was lying in the veranda of my bungalow after tiffin one day, when the rajah's head shikaree, Omrah Deen, appeared, and salaaming low, said, in the hill patois: "The rajah, sahib, has heard of three 'reis' (bears) at Baghesur," mentioning a village on a river about twelve miles off, "he starts at sundown to sleep there and attack them in the morning, and he hopes you will accompany him." "Good" I said, "I will be at Baghesur at ten this evening."

The haunts of the bear are rocks on a hillside, particularly those overlooking cultivated valleys; they sleep all day in caves, and come out at night to feed in the sugar-cane plantations. They do not stay long in the same cave if at all disturbed, but move about the country from cave to cave. Many of these caves are very deep. I have been in some running for one hundred yards in the hillside, and six or eight feet high, perhaps twenty feet wide at the mouth, and narrowing away into the interior. The bears sleep in a mass together at the far end, and are often difficult to get out. The natives take advantage of a favorable wind when they have tracked a bear to a cave, and light large fires of wet leaves; the smoke, driving into the cave, sometimes forces the bears out, but it is tedious work, taking some hours. The natives hide themselves behind pieces of rock, and shoot poisoned arrows at the bears, as their great object is to get rid of them for the sake of their crops and honey, getting the flesh and skin being a secondary object, and hardly considered worth the danger, they being very fearful of the bear.

The rajah and I dined together that night at Baghesur. We turned in early, and by three the next morning the camp was astir. After two delicious massocks of ice-cold glacier water from the river, I had a cup of tea, lit a cheroot, and felt "fit" for any bear.

My arms were my shot-gun, with a bullet in left barrel; in my waist-belt a five barrelled revolver and huge *couteau de chasse*, or sword bayonet, which would fix on to my short breechloading rifle, carried by my gun coolie, who also had some of my ammunition.

We strolled down to the river by starlight, the rajah and I with our gun coolies, his head shikaree, and a villager who had tracked the bears the day before to their cave, and crossed on two inflated buffalo skins; the other shikarees and beaters went up the river to cross at a ford, and beat the cultivated flat ground up to the hills where we were to be posted.

On arriving at the foot of the rocky cliffs, the villager showed us a sort of track winding up the sides, which we covered with low brushwood, and which he said led to some caves about two hundred feet higher, and that, about a mile on, there was another track which ran back to the same caves and that the bears would come up one of these at daylight or when disturbed. It was settled that I and my gun coolie should go up the first track, and that the rajah and his men should go on to the next one, as it was a wider one, with branches, and required several men to be on the watch, lest the bears should slip by and get into caves unperceived. I was glad, before I had gone many hundred yards, that it was the coolest part of the twenty-four hours, for the track was very steep and very rough—hand-and-feet climbing most of the way—and by the time I reached the caves, and stood on the platform of rock in front of them, I was running with perspiration. From this spot I had a view of the whole valley, and could see the beaters just crossing the ford, preparatory to beating the flat ground below us, which was covered with sugar-cane and plantations. In the distance were the snowy summits of the highest Himalayas, thirty thousand feet, now gloriously tinted with red and gold from the beams of the rising sun, which had just caught them. As soon as I had recovered my breath I took a survey of the caves and their approaches, and quickly observed a projecting rock, round which the pathway or track wound about fifty yards below the cave. Behind this I and my gun coolie ensconced ourselves. I placed a two ounce bullet in each barrel of my smooth-bore, which I held in my hand, as the handiest and deadliest at close quarters; in my rifle held by the coolie I placed a shell bullet with a percussion head, and fixed the sword on ready for an emergency.

Soon the shouts and cries of the beaters disturbed the valley below and raised up clouds of birds—ducks from the river, and pheasants and hawks and pigeons from the cliffs. We had been peering over the rock behind which we were ambushed for some ten minutes, when my gun coolie gave me a nudge, as his quick ear detected something coming up the track, and in less than a minute appeared the shaggy black head of a bear shambling up the track. I cocked both barrels, determined to give him a broadside as he passed our ambuscade and then to seize my rifle to finish him.

As he approached our rock we could hear him growl as his nose evidently detected us, but his desire to get to the cave, away from the row of the beaters, was apparently stronger than his prudence, and in half a minute his black head and forequarters loomed out between me and the sky as he trotted along the edge of the track. Bang! bang! went both my barrels pointed behind his shoulder, and in a cloud of smoke and dust he rolled over the precipice, and crashed through the rhododendron bushes.

I handed my gun to the coolie to reload, and seizing my rifle I moved to the edge to look after him and see if he required anything more in the shape of a quietus. About twenty yards below his carcass had caught in a thick bush, and I could see he was recovering and trying to get his footing. I immediately raised my rifle, and was peering about to get a fair shot at him between his eyes, which I could hardly see for the intervening bushes, when an unearthly yell from my coolie made me quickly look round, and, behold! four yards from me two bears rushing up the track. One, a half-grown one, rushed, apparently to get past me, and get up to the caves, while the bigger reared on its hind legs and evidently meant fighting. As the young one approached me I lowered my point and lunged at its chest, but it caught the sword in its mouth, and the point came out of its cheek on the other side. I had just time to observe this, and was about to withdraw it when the big bear rushed at me and knocked me backwards. In falling I managed to get my face downwards to save it and my chest from the clawing that I expected, but to my surprise directly I fell the bear left me and went to the young one, who was kicking up a tremendous row about the sword in its cheek.

I rose as quickly as I could and shouted to my coolie for the smooth bore. He was standing on the rock, up which he had climbed for safety, and was screaming for help, though there was no one to hear him; but almost as I rose the young bear got his head clear of my rifle and sword and he and the big one, which was evidently the mother, trotted off down the hill again. I discharged my revolver at their vanishing sterns but apparently without effect; and now I heard the scramblings of the first wounded bear trying to get up the cliff; his advent, though, I awaited with the utmost composure, as I was sure he must feel very sick after my broadside. I crouched down and soon his forepaws appeared on the edge of the track. I stepped up and as his head appeared uttering fierce growls I plunged my point into the center of his chest. A dark stream of blood poured out and the bear fell backwards and disappeared, crashing through the underwood.

I now retired to the old corner behind the rock, and refitted; my right arm was torn with the she-bear's claws; this I tied up; my rifle was much bruised and dented, and the sword was slightly bent by the efforts of the young bear to free himself; however, nothing had happened to impair me or my weapons, and I was soon ready for anything that might turn up. In a few minutes I heard two quick discharges, and then one from the direction of the rajah and loud shouts. I hurried up the track to the mouth of the caves, thinking to intercept any bear that might have passed his party. However, I waited there some minutes but nothing appeared, though another shot and loud shouting came from the same spot; and as I heard from the noise below that the beaters were nearing the foot of the cliff, I hurried back to my old ambush, in the hopes of the she-bear and young one appearing again. Soon the shouts below me redoubled, and we could hear the cry of "Reis! sahib! reis!" I now took up my position with my rifle, kneeling on the track, looking down, and close to the projecting rock, behind which I could spring if I should fail to bring down anything coming up, and in a few minutes a three-quarter grown bear came shambling up the path, followed by a yapping dog of the village, on whom he turned every now and then. He did not see me at first, and waited until he was within twenty yards, then his little eyes caught sight of me and glistened with rage. He uttered low growls and redoubled his pace; but the bead of my foresight was on his nose. I pulled, and the animal turned head over heels like a rabbit. My coolie handed me my smooth bore, and I hurried up, but he was quite dead, and the village dog was worrying his carcass. The shell bullet had struck just below the left eye, having grazed along his nose (my aim had been the point of the snout), and apparently exploded at once, as all that side of the head was blown open, and the ear hanging down. By the time I had done examining and measuring the brute some of the beaters appeared on the track I had come, so there was nothing more to expect from that quarter. Leaving my gun coolie to point out to the shikarees where my first bear had fallen over, I hurried on to see what the rajah had done. On arriving, I saw the rajah's shikaree, Omrah Deen, lying down, looking very sick, and a good deal of blood about; the rajah's rifle, with the barrel bent to an angle of forty-five degrees, and a half-grown bear lying dead on the path. It appears that the young bear had appeared first, when the rajah had knocked it over with a double shot, and that Omrah Deen had run out with a kookree to settle it, and drag it off the path. While so employed a great she-bear had come up suddenly, and clawed his back; the rajah had run out with his rifle, and afraid to fire for fear of hitting his man, had crammed the muzzle into the animal's mouth. He then, as he affirmed, pulled the trigger with the muzzle pointing at its head, but I expect the bullet must have gone out of its cheek; however, the brute had bent the barrel nearly double, and then scuttled off up the path, and must have got into the cave before I arrived there. Soon afterwards another bear had come up the path at which the rajah had fired, with what effect he knew not, as the beast had turned and run down the path again. Some of the beaters said that they had seen another bear get up to the caves by some track we had not known of; this was probably the bear that the rajah had fired at last.

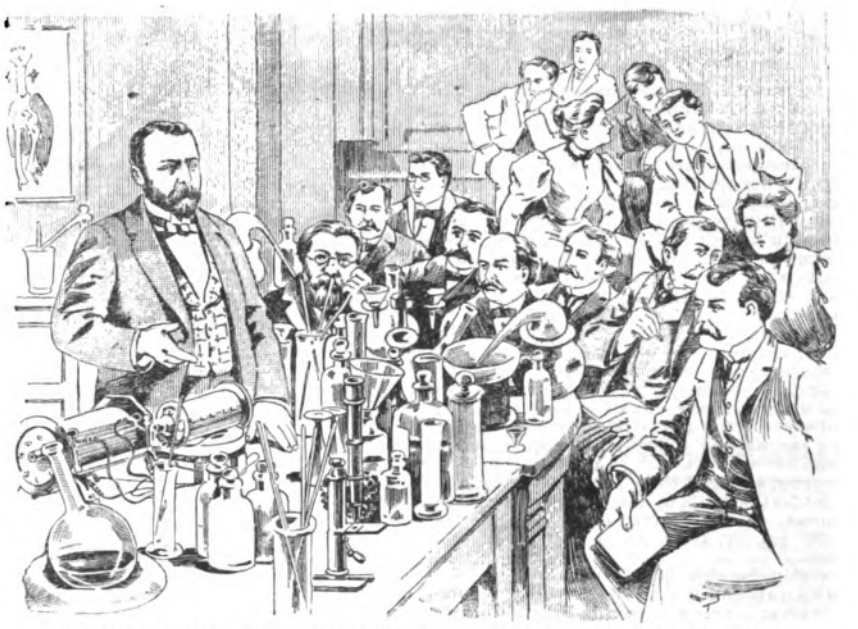
We now all moved up to the caves to see what we could do for the bears inside. There was no wind stirring, so a fire was hopeless to smoke them out; however, by the fire made we got some hot tea and chupattees; and our coolies indulged in the social hubble bubble, made of a cocoa-nut, which was handed from one to another. Omrah Deen began to feel rather faint from the loss of blood from the scratches on his back, so we made a litter for him, and determined to return to camp. We were fairly pleased with our success, having bagged three out of five bears seen, though certainly only one was full grown; and if it had not been for poor Omrah Deen's back we should have had a most enjoyable morning.

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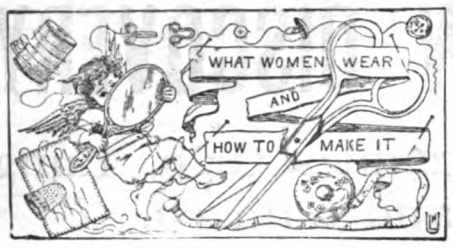
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WE are with one accord adopting the newest of new skirts, which fasten over in front, so that nothing may mar the beautifully-fitting simplicity of the perfectly plain back. These skirts are particularly easy to hold up, those which are practically untrimmed being, to my thinking, the most attractive. Such a one, for instance, made in bright violet cloth, has half-a-dozen rows of stitching to sweep down the center of the back, another group outlining the place of fastening in front—that is all; while a double-breasted coat, just covering the waist line, continues the line of stitching, and boasts, perhaps, of a row of crystal buttons. Such a costume will have a specially useful career, if you have an indoor bodice made of the cloth quite simply, with just a knot of mauve satin, and a cascade of lace to fasten it over the left side, and then you also provide yourself with a tucked silk shirt, whose aim and object it will be in life to save the cloth one from crushing, and to be worn in its place under the little coat when taking your walks abroad.

In the cigar-brown, tan, black, or dark blue the costume will look equally well, and, in its elegant and distinguished simplicity, will hold its own among any number of more elaborate gowns.

Of course, some of these skirts are decorated with bordering frills or waved lines of stitched strappings, and so forth, but, in their untrimmed aspect, they are, I think, at their smartest.

The polonaise skirt is, it must be confessed, painfully unbecoming to the average woman, so, though it is being shown by all the smartest houses and worn by a few of our *elegantes*, it is not likely to become popular. In fact, it is at all times an impossible style for any woman who is not of the "divinely tall" order.

Still another novelty is a skirt—of cloth, of course, seeing that no other fabric is allowed any chance nowadays—with a deep shawl point, bordered with triple tucks, falling to the hem of a plain under-skirt, both in front and at the back, the sides rising to a level of the knees. This is rather a graceful style, as I was compelled to admit when I saw it exemplified by a Parma mauve cloth gown. The bodice, in Van Dyked tucks at the back and sides, but with a plain plastron front, which displays a tiny vest and diminutive revers of lemon yellow. So it only remains for you to pay your money and take your choice of skirts only let me beg of you to study your stature, and carefully consider your waist and hip measurements before you do so choose.

Let me tell you of the smart simplicity and perfect taste of the last new hat, which is made in felt cloth, with a *rouleau* of velvet to bind the sailor brim, which is tilted up a little at the left side with a cluster of flowers—dahlias and roses, say, in the case of a mauve hat, while for sole trimming there is a species of bow at the left side, which is like nothing so much as five curved leaves of graduated size placed one inside the other, and fashioned of silk and satin, shading from palest pinky mauve to deepest violet. It looks lovely, too, in cerise felt ribbon, while it is demurely dainty too in grey.

I must now introduce to you two evening gowns, whose charms I believe will specially interest you. One displays the fashionable chenille embroidery, where trails of fuchias, pink and purple, are wrought on pale mauve



THE NEWEST SKIRT.

chiffon, which in its turn veils blush-rose pink; the touch of black tulle at the *decollete* and in the puffs of the short sleeves are particularly effective. The other gown is destined for wear by a superbly handsome woman, whose dusky hair, black eyes and clear complexion will be set off to perfection by the white satin veiled with jet embroidered net, and relieved by a deep-folded waistband and corsage bow of yellow and orange silk.

Either of these gowns might be copied very easily by means of the embroidered overskirts and bodice lengths, which fashion introduced during one of her kindly moods, when she gave a thought to those folks who had to be economical, but still desired to be fashionable. I really believe that evening gowns get richer in embroidery and precious stones daily. A very lovely one seen lately was built in the Princess style of rich blue velvet, perfectly plain, and perfectly fitted, bordered round the trailing skirt with a very deep silver embroidery in the form of huge lilies and their leaves; encrusted on the silver were pearls and gold paste, the latter sparkling with brilliant effect, as you may imagine. This beautiful embroidery figured on the *decolletage* also, and down the left side of the gown, which was otherwise unadorned. It certainly looked lovely and so did another dress of less costly material and more simple style, being worn by a younger woman. The foundation of this gown was cream colored satin, which, on the bodice, was veiled with sequinned and jeweled net in quite



THE LATEST HAT.

a novel way. Quite unique were the sleeves, fashioned partly of lace and partly of mousseline frills, while the shoulders were ornamented with loops representing true-lover's knots of cerise velvet. The same idea was carried out on the skirt which was flounced with sequinned net, and headed by an embroidery of silver.

The new white net boa is decidedly becoming and dainty. The white net you must know, is thickly quilled in graduated form, very thick and broad in the center and tapering off almost to a point at either end, and then over the whole is sprinkled black chenille spots, which gives it very chic style. Needless to say these net boas are the *dernier cri*. In all colors they are made to correspond to hat or gown with which they will be worn. A very sweet shade is mauve with either white or black spots dispersed on its surface, and again, blue or green are equally charming and modish. In feather boas, white seems most popular although for slender purses the fashion is the reverse of economical, for nothing looks worse than a dirty white; therefore, let me beseech you not to invest in one of such delicate nature unless



A PRINCESS GOWN.

you are prepared to replace it for a fresh one as soon as signs of wear and tear are seen. Rather have a black one that will brave all signs of dust and fog, but even then do not wear an ostrich feather boa when there is any likelihood of damp, for all the pretty curl will vanish and nothing but a long straight unsightly mass of feathers will be left to you.

Blue and mauve is a particularly stylish mixture, originating, of course, in Paris, where some of the very smartest of gowns have been created with the blending of these two shades.

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He did not disturb her but went on his way, thinking of a little German poem known as the "Briar rose." Later in the day he met the same girl in the castle, and saying: "Here is my briar rose again," he introduced himself, and entered into conversation with her, which ended in his falling in love, so charming was she. They were married on his twenty-second birthday, and since that time she has set herself to realize the German ideal of a devoted hausfrau.

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Serious Results Sometimes Follow Its Excessive Use.

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We refer to the common use of soda to relieve heartburn or sour stomach, a habit which thousands of people practice almost daily, and one which is fraught with danger; moreover the soda only gives temporary relief and in the end the stomach trouble gets worse and worse.

The soda acts as a mechanical irritant to the walls of the stomach and bowels and cases are on record where it accumulated in the intestines, causing death by inflammation or peritonitis.

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HOW BOOKS ARE MADE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



For the great army of book-buyers, book-readers and book-lovers in this country, how few have any idea of the processes that enter into the manufacture of a volume. More than the most casual knowledge of the processes through which an author's manuscript must go before it finds its way to the shelves of the dealer is something possessed by not one person in a hundred. To briefly sketch these processes is the object of this article, believing that it will be of interest to all who read or buy books, and may inspire a desire to investigate further the fascinating industry of book-making. During the writer's connection with one of the largest book-making concerns in the country, it has often been his privilege to escort visitors through the various departments of the plant, and some of the questions that have been propounded have been, to say the least, very amusing and have founded the basis for the statement above.

The large book-printers usually deal with publishing firms, seldom with the author direct. This is because the publishers are able to advertise the book more widely, and because they have a force of editors and proof-readers who can look out for the technical points in the work. The author selects his publisher (if he is well-known; if he is obscure he *searches* for his publisher). The publisher selects his printer and his engraver. If the work is to be illustrated it is sent first to the engraver, who makes the cuts, wood-engravings, zinc etchings, half-tones, or whatever they may be. The manuscript and the cuts are then sent to the printer.

The author's manuscript or "copy" as it is called, is now given to the compositors who set it up in type. The process of type-setting consists in taking the pieces of type, each of which represents a letter, out of the case which contains them, and arranging them to form words and sentences. As many words as can be conveniently put into a line are set up, then the space between the words is increased or decreased until the line is of exactly the required length. On plain books, requiring only one size and style of type, a type-setting machine is used. These machines are comparatively a new invention, but have proved of immense value in the printing office. The type-setting machine used in newspaper offices does not set the actual type, but casts each line solid, so that the change in a letter necessitates the resetting of a whole line. This would never do in book-work, except on books which are merely reproductions, as the author or publisher makes numerous changes in almost every page of proof. Therefore a machine is used which sets the actual type, and letters and words can easily be changed.

The type, after it has been set is tied up in strips of convenient length and put on a hand-press, where a proof is taken. The proof-presses used to-day are an almost exact copy of the finest presses known in the time of Franklin. In the office referred to here, there is at present on exhibition an old printing-press on which Ben Franklin himself is said to have worked. At that time it was the finest piece of printing machinery known. At the present time, except for the associations connected with it, it sinks into insignificance beside even the cheapest proof-press.

The proof is taken to the proof-reader, who reads it aloud to his assistant, and all mistakes noticed are marked. Horace Greeley said that one of the qualifications of a proof-reader was that he must never make a mistake. Mistakes do occur, but the number is surprisingly small with a good reader.

The compositor who set the type now takes the proof and makes the changes indicated. The type is then taken by the "make up," who measures it off into page lengths, inserts the cuts in their proper positions, puts on the headings and ties a string around the page to hold it firm. A clean proof, called a revise, is now taken and copies sent to the author and to the publisher. These are read by them and all desired changes are indicated. The printer corrects the pages and a corrected proof is sent to the author. Some authors make only slight changes in their proofs, some cut their work up badly, changing sentences and cutting out and rewriting whole pages. As all the work



THE PRESS ROOM.

done on proof after the first revise is at the expense of the author, some of the bills for authors' corrections are as great as the original cost of type-setting.

When everything is corrected to the author's and publisher's satisfaction, orders are given to "cast" the pages, that is, to make the electrotype plates of them.

Few books at the present day, if a large number are wanted or if more than one edition is to be printed, are printed direct from the type, but from electrotype plates. This saves the wear on the type; besides this, plates are easily handled and stored. The pages to be cast are taken to the "stone." Here they are put into iron frames, or "chases" and surrounded with strips of wood or metal and securely locked in place by means of iron wedges called "quoins." The "form," as it is called, is then proved and is given a final reading for broken letters and errors that have thus far escaped attention. When all corrections have been made, the pages are ready to be cast.

The process of casting consists of taking an impression of the type in a sheet of prepared bees-wax. This wax mould is then hung in an electric battery, and a thin sheet of copper is deposited upon it, filling the indentations in the wax made by the type. This copper shell is then "backed" with an alloy of lead, the pages sawed apart, trimmed and finished, the backs being planed off to the proper thickness. These plates are proved and are again examined for broken letters and other imperfections, besides any errors that even now may appear. The finisher corrects errors by cutting out of the plate the wrong word or words and substituting a correct piece that has been set just the same size. The new piece is soldered into place in the plate. These plate corrections are rather expensive, but often changes are made by the publishers after the plates have been made. When all changes have been made the plates are ready for the press-room.

Then begins a very delicate and painstaking process, arranging the page plates with reference to the margins of the sheet which is to receive their impression. Usually sixteen or thirty-two pages are printed at once, though if the pages are very small as many as one hundred and twenty-eight may be printed on one side of a sheet. The plates are arranged in the "form" as it is called, so that when the sheet is folded the pages will fall in consecutive order. On most books, especially on those requiring fine work, only one side of the sheet is printed at a time; on other books, the forms are put on what is known as a "perfecting" press, which prints both sides of the sheet at once. On fine work where there are a number of illustrations, the task which requires greatest nicety is underlaying and overlaying. The former is accomplished by pasting on the bottom of the plate carefully cut bits of paper to procure a stronger impression from those portions of the plate which should print up sharp and black. The same result of accentuation is secured by overlaying the smooth polished surface upon which the plate presses at the moment when the impression is made. Of course, the paper which receives the impression is between the overlaying and the plate.

When everything is ready the press is started, and the number of sheets required for the edition is run off. The form is removed and another one made ready. The sheets are usually fed into the press by a man known as a "feeder," but recently a machine has been invented to do this. The way the automatic feeder picks up a sheet of paper in its steel fingers and places it in position is so human as to be almost uncanny. To add to the human element of this machine it is arranged to stop the press automatically if a sheet is torn or is not fed in exactly right.

After being printed the sheets are put into a powerful hydraulic press, where they are subjected to very great pressure, to smooth out the indentations made by the plates while the sheets were being printed. The sheets are now counted and dried, and are ready for the binder.

Novels and other classes of cheap paper-covered books are not given all this attention. The foregoing description refers to fine editions of books. The cheaper books are rushed through a perfecting press at a high rate of speed, and are bound at once. Books with fine illustrations are printed more slowly, one side of the sheet at a time, and are given the greatest attention.

Our sheets have arrived at the bindery. A wonderful machine has recently been invented for binding cheap paper-covered editions. It consists of a massive steel structure, supporting at each end a wheel carrying a wonderful grooved belt or endless chain. Where the latter begins its journey from the lower side of one wheel to that of the other, the central slot of the belt is fed with the folded sheets, constituting a book. The back edges to which the covers are to be attached protrude a fraction of an inch below the bottom of the carrying belt, and first come in contact with knives which do a neat job of trimming. A few inches beyond, the trimmed edges run the gauntlet of three saws, which reduce the backs to a spongy surface, ready to receive a coating of peculiar glue, which is applied by rollers located a little further on, and just beneath the belt and its tandem train of coverless books.

Then strips of cotton the exact width of the book back are firmly stamped upon the soft sticky surface. The thin glue quickly soaks through the strips and makes the latter thoroughly adhesive. At this juncture the paper covers make their appearance, and are pressed in proper position against the cotton backing. This leaves but one more task for this almost human machine to perform before the finished book passes under the second wheel and begins the "home-stretch" along the upper line of the belt. When the cover is pressed upon the back of the book, it is in the form of a flat, outspread sheet. A moment later it passes through the jaws of a clever piece of mechanism, which folds the stiff manilla sheet against the sides of the book. Then the line of finished books advances to the top of the wheel from which the sheets started, dropping out of a chute, ready for market. It will be seen from this description that these sheets are not stitched together, but are simply imbedded in a back of pliant glue. This is said to make a stronger binding than is obtained by stitching. One of these machines can easily handle 7000 volumes a day.

For other classes of books the process of binding is of course more elaborate. The sheets are first folded, sometimes by hand, sometimes by a folding machine. When a book is not to have a gilt top the sheets are usually folded by hand, for the machine makes a slight puncture in the sheet near the top of the folded page, which is rather unsightly. When the book is to have a gilt edge, however, a machine can be used, for enough of the top will be scraped away to remove these punctures. After being folded the sheets are stitched together. If sixteen pages have been printed on each side of the sheet, the complete sheet will contain thirty-two pages of the book, in proper order. Each of these folded sheets is a "signature." The various signatures that go to make up a book are now stitched together in their proper order. The sides and edges are next trimmed to the proper size. If the books are to be gilt-edged, they are placed side by side in a lateral press, much like a large vise, with jaws that open very wide. The edges that are to be gilded are scraped very smooth and a thin sizing is then applied, sufficiently adhesive to retain the sheets of gold foil without sticking the leaves of the book together. After the gold leaf has been laid on, the burnishing begins. This is done with long-handled instruments which resemble chisels having a smooth round tip of agate instead of a sharp edge of steel. The handle bears against the shoulder of the workman, and his body sways back and forth as the pressure of the instrument gives high polish to the gold, thoroughly affixing its particles to the edge of each individual leaf.

The books are now ready for their covers, or "cases" as they are technically called. These were formerly made by hand, but a recent invention is a machine where they are glued, have the pieces of straw-board that form the stiff sides put into position, also a strip of cotton the proper width at the back. The cloth is pressed into position, its corners folded over neatly and the completed case discharged at the side of the machine in half the time it takes to tell it, and done much better than it would be possible to do by hand. The covers now have the design of the artist stamped on, from brass dies cut by hand. If the design is to be printed in colors, a separate die is used for each color. If gilt lettering is to be used the design is stamped in adhesive sizing. Gold-leaf is then placed over it, and the surplus gold brushed off. The operator who does this work is in an enclosed booth, so that no particle of superfluous gold can be wasted.

Now the backs of the books are rounded in a machine for that purpose, the covers are put on the book-bodies, and "corded" in huge presses. After being carefully inspected and wrapped they are packed and shipped to their destination and appear on the bookseller's shelves.

Such is the history of a well-made book. In special cases where the regular routine is departed from, processes quite as complex and painstaking as those here described take place. A visit to any large bookmaking establishment will repay the time spent, and the interested seeker after information in these times has before him a broad and interesting field of research.

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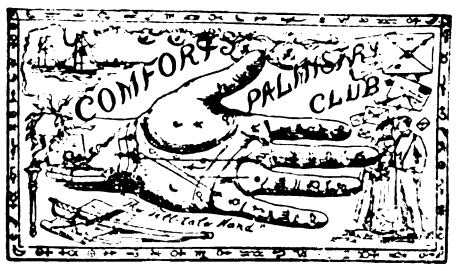
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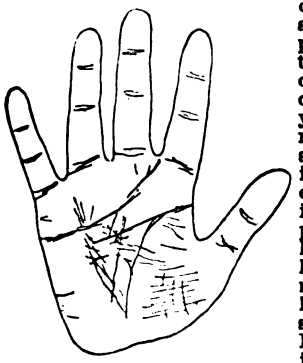
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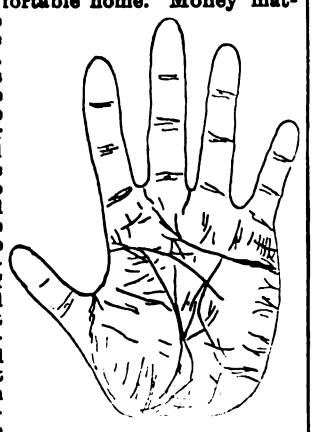
IN spite of all I have said about the need of patience on the part of those who send impressions of their hands, I have several letters this month of complaint that their readings do not appear in COMFORT as soon as they think they ought. In each case the readings were all in type and came out in the December number, so that I must advise a little more patience still. I am reading four hands this month, and every one was received last October. I have others here that came in November and December, and these I shall have to delay till next month. I mention this that you may all know that it is the rule and not the exception to wait from three to six months.

Nora C. is the first one this month. She has an excellent hand showing great refinement of character, a kind and gentle disposition and talents of a varied order. In her childhood and youth she was rather retiring and did not intrude her opinions and ideas on older people; rather she kept things to herself, though not what is usually known as a secretive child. Even now she is not very assertive about thrusting her own opinions on others but loves to depend on those older and wiser than herself. As a married woman she will be guided by her husband, provided he is a man to whom she can look up with respect for his judgment. I do not know her age but would predict a deep attachment for some one running from childhood to middle age and even after. She should marry about the age of twenty-five, although matters of the heart will not be thoroughly settled with her before thirty-five or forty. She will marry happily, however, and will be quite prosperous in all that she undertakes. She will not be very wealthy, but neither will she suffer from poverty, having always enough to give her a comfortable home. Money matters will improve with her as she gets on in life. She is generous and affectionate by nature and the man that gets her will get a good wife, and one that he ought to cherish. She will however, have many little crosses to bear between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five, but has so much character that she will be able to meet and bear them in a creditable manner so that she will turn them to good account as a means of discipline. On the whole her hand is a good one and one that gives good auguries for the future. She will be blessed with good health and will live to see her allotted three-score years and ten.

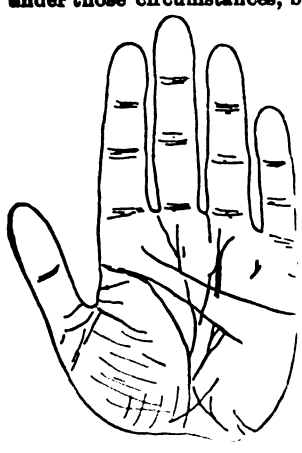


NORA C.

Mrs. O. L. A. has a very peculiar hand, marked by strong characteristics. She will have many vicissitudes and changes in her life and will travel about a great deal making some long journeys. She has a discontented disposition and is very ambitious. This is a good sign, however, as she will keep improving her circumstances on account of it. She will marry quite young but her heart, that is, the best part of it, is not in the marriage. Of course she would not get the best part of marriage under those circumstances, but I find nothing to show that her husband is unfaithful to her or that he does not prove a good husband in every way. There are no signs of a separation but she outlives her husband and marries again, the second time much happier. Her second husband will be better off in this world's goods and she will be comfortable in her old age. She will live to be an old woman and the latter part of her life will be spent in a different place and in a very different fashion than the early part of it. There will be some unexpected turns to the last part of her career and she will be well known in the community where she lives and be a woman of influence and reputation. She has great force of character and it is owing to this that she meets so many changes in life. But things are sure to improve with her as long as she lives.



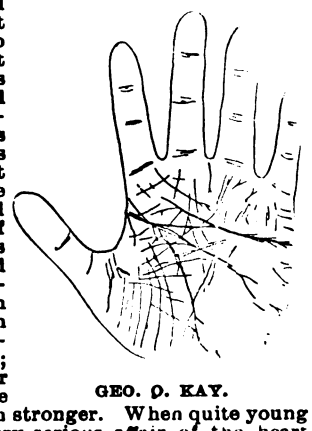
MRS. O. L. A.



I. S. E. ASTORIA.

I find the hand of I. S. E. Astoria, very interesting as for one thing, the right and left hands are exactly alike, which is a very unusual thing in itself and indicates that this person carries out precisely what Nature designed him to be. I do not remember that I have ever met a case before where there was not some difference in the two hands and generally there is a radical difference. It is an excellent hand too. This young man is honest, upright, square-dealing, and a fine fellow in every way. He is a man that can be tied to, and the girl that gets him may consider herself pretty fortunate. I do not often see a hand that gives so much promise of an upright, manly character. In business he has good judgment and will be steadily successful. Some business connection which he has now or will have at about the age of twenty-seven, will gradually grow distasteful to him and the partners will grow apart. The co-partnership will not be suddenly dissolved, however, the change coming at about the age of forty-five with this man. He will be steadily successful when he sets up for himself and will be well off and highly respected wherever he is known. He has a faculty of sticking steadily to the one thing which means business for him, and to that he will owe his success in life. He admires the other sex but will never be foolish for the sake of any member of it. He will not marry until late in life but will be happy when he does as he will use the same sort of common sense about marriage that he does about business. As I said before it is not often I see a hand that I like so well.

George O. Kay has a good hand also, although quite different. He is by nature very ambitious and dreams of what he would like to be and to do; but he seldom carries out to their full extent these ambitions. All his earlier life he has been rather kept back by the wishes and opinions of others. His health also will not be very robust, although he will live much beyond the average age of man; during the latter part of his life he will be much stronger. When quite young he will have a very serious affair of the heart which will go wrong and which will affect his after life for many years. He will marry young, however, and will have a very nice wife and live happily with her for many years. Whatever his ambitions are he will succeed with them at last and he will be a distinguished man before he dies. He will be an orator or a preacher as he chooses and will lead a very upright life, ending in the deep respect of his fellow citizens if not of the nation. If he is still a young man, I would advise him to become thoroughly familiar with political matters and if his ambitions are in that direction to aim for honors of that kind, as he has the right hand for success in that line. Or if he inclines to the ministry, to bend all his energies in that direction, for he is bound to "get there" sometime. He must cultivate the virtues of patience and perseverance and be willing to wait, for with him honors and success do not come all at once. He should fix his eyes on a certain goal and then keep them there, determined to get there in the end. He will travel much especially in the latter part of his life. Much the better part of life with him comes after he is forty.



GEO. O. KAY.

Next month we shall consider several others that are on the waiting list.

Digitus

A LADY TELLS HOW SHE SUPPORTS HERSELF AND FAMILY.

"I often read of ladies who work hard trying to earn enough to keep body and soul together and for their benefit I will relate how easily one can get along in the world if they only know how. There is a big firm in Pittsburg that manufactures flavoring powders. I had tried them myself and knew they were splendid, so sent for samples and tried selling them. I found it so pleasant and easy that I have kept right at it and never make less than $3 a day and often clear more than $5. The powders go twice as far as the liquid extracts sold in stores and are much stronger. I sell from one to eight different flavors in each house. They are used for ice cream, custards, cakes, candies, etc., and are so delicate and give such a rich flavor that everywhere I go I gain a permanent customer. Those of your readers who would like to make money can get full particulars by writing to W. H. Baird & Co., 87 Telephone Bldg, Pittsburg, Pa., and they will give you a good start. I support myself and family nicely and we have a good many comforts we never had before." "L."

FITS A Great Remedy Discovered. Send for a FREE package & let it's ease for it-self. Postage 6c. DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ills.

WANTED Man or lady to travel and appoint agents. Estab. firm. $50 per month and expenses to start. P. W. ZIEGLER & CO., 232 Locust St., Phila.



THE ELECTRICITY from the batteries will turn a needle through your table or hand. Cures Rheumatism, Liver and Kidney Disease, Weak and Lame Back, etc. For advertising purposes we will give ONE BELT FREE to one person in each locality. Address E. J. MEAD & CO., Dept. No. 236, VINELAND, NEW JERSEY.

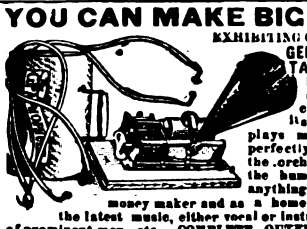
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We give engine Solid Gold Shell Belcher Set Birthday Ring and Tiffany Style Opal Stick Pin to any one who will sell for us 12 Ten Cent Packages of Imperishable Violet Sachet Perfume. NO MONEY REQUIRED. Simply send address on postal card. We send Perfume, to be paid for when sold. WE TAKE ALL RISK. Unsold goods returnable. National Supply Co., 46-50 West Larned St., Detroit, Mich.

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in public halls, school houses and churches. It talks, sings, it laughs, it plays music, it imitates perfectly the brass band, the orchestra, the piano, the human voice, in fact anything. A wonder as a money maker and as a home entertainer. All the latest music, either vocal or instrumental, speeches of prominent men, etc. COMPLETE OUTFIT consisting of Talking Machine with automatic spring motor, 12 musical or talking records, large illustrated advertising posters (12x18 inches), admission tickets and instruction book with advice about making engagements, securing the use of halls, etc., FOR $15.25. SO SIMPLE that a child can operate it and nothing to get out of order. Will last a lifetime. Cut this ad. out and send for catalogue of Graphophones, Records, etc., with copies of hundreds of testimonials from people who are making hundreds of dollars with our exhibition outfits. ADDRESS,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

THE TONIC CUP.

A Fountain of Health and Youth to Jog Your Jaded Appetite.

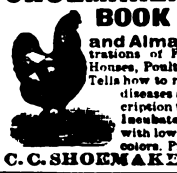
DOWN in the tropical jungles of Surinam, sometimes called Dutch Guiana, there grows a tree of magical medicinal properties. Until Linneaus gave it attention it was not known to European medicine, but reports of wonderful cures produced by an infusion of a strange, South American wood were brought home by sea captains and other sailor men. The attention of the great Swedish naturalist having been directed to this strange medicinal wood he learned that a negro named Quassia had used it with such effect as a remedy for fever and gastric disturbances that some of the people thought him to be in league with the devil. Those whom he cured worshiped him.

Having the negro in mind Linnaeus named the tree quassia. Much was written concerning the discovery made by this negro and early in the last century quassia wood was recognized as of immense medicinal value by the leading physicians of London, Paris and Berlin. It was used with success in malarial and gastric fevers, for dyspepsia and as a remedy for jaded appetites. London found infusions of quassia wood to be effective as a specific for influenza or the grip. Vessels were sent for cargoes of quassia wood and the demand became so great that a counterfeit was imposed upon the people. This counterfeit was the bitter ash of the West Indies. It was said to possess all the medicinal qualities of the real Surinam quassia but it did not and its introduction made the public suspicious.

The Dutch government controls the quassia yield of its South American colony, and to-day the real article is to be had with improvements by all who are willing to take advantage of an offer in another part of this paper. The wood is used in medicine more extensively than ever. It is mixed with other ingredients and given as tonics, as remedies for malaria, for the grip, for severe colds and for a builder up of the constitution.

In considering the thousand and one things that might be offered as a gift to our patrons we decided that of all the things that came within our ken nothing would meet with such wide-spread appreciation as a **Tonic Cup** made of the genuine Surinam quassia. In this cup would always be found a ready physician, a cure for fevers, for chills, for grip, for dyspepsia and other gastric disturbances; a stomach tonic than which none better was ever discovered; an appetizer, too, and such a one as can be depended upon to coax he who quaffs into a ravenous desire for food. No expense is attached to the ministrations of this **Tonic Cup.** Pour water, clear cold water, into it, and let it remain for a few moments before drinking. The active qualities of the wood produce a marvelously pure bitter—a bitter made by an active agent in the wood known as quassine. There is no danger whatever to be feared in drinking the infusions from the **Tonic Cup.** To get one of these cups you simply send your name with 25c. for a year's subscription to the LITERARY COMPANION, Augusta, Maine, and a **Tonic Cup** will be sent you free by the editor who has used one for the past thirty years with the greatest success, and now with the improvements added you cannot fail to be benefited. See the advertisement in another column about the cup that cures and send at once for one before they all go. We might add that in South America infusions of quassia wood are employed as an injection to destroy thread worms, and water from the **Tonic Cup** well sweetened with sugar and placed in a wide pan puts fly paper in the shade as a killer of those troublesome insects.

SHOEMAKER'S POULTRY BOOK on and Almanac for 1899. 160 pages, 100 illustrations of Fowls, Incubators, Brooders, Poultry Houses, Poultry Supplies and largest Poultry Farm. Tells how to raise Chickens successfully, their care, diseases and remedies. Diagrams with full description to build best Poultry houses. All about Incubators, Brooders and thoroughbred Fowls, with lowest prices. Printed on good paper in two colors. Price only 15c. Money back if not pleased



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SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this big $25-lb. new 1899 pattern high grade RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, $13.00 less the $1.00 sent with order, or $12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16½x18x11, top 14½x23; made from best pig iron, extra large flue, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamentations and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamented base. Best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you $25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least $10. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)



WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

Free Flower Seeds

FREE 410 VARIETIES.



THE GENTLEWOMAN is an *interesting, large illustrated* **magazine** of from **24** to **32** *pages*, never having *less* than **96** and *frequently* as many as **128 columns** *each issue.* In scope *it includes everything pertaining* to **woman,** the **family** and **society. Mr. H. A. Siebrecht,** who has immense nurseries at New Rochelle, N. Y., as well as a large lily farm in Bermuda and palm nurseries at Trinidad, West Indies, is a contributor to **THE GENTLEWOMAN,** and will write interesting articles therein **"For Flower Lovers,"** *Besides,* **THE GENTLEWOMAN** is devoted to *"Stories," "Poems," "Lessons in Palmistry," "What to wear and how to make it," "Work for odd moments," "Housekeeping and Homemaking," "The Letter Box," "Aunt Dinah's department for the little ones," "Fancy work,"* etc., etc., etc. **We make this gigantic offer** to introduce **THE GENTLEWOMAN** into *300,000 new homes* where *this handsome magazine* is now **a stranger.** Upon receipt of *20 cents,* in silver or one-cent stamps, we will forward **THE GENTLEWOMAN** for **three months,** and, *besides,* we will also send **FREE,** *all charges prepaid,* our **large, grand and gorgeous collection** of *fresh, reliable, selected* **FLOWER SEEDS 410 varieties** described below.



1 Packet Chinese Aster (*Compositæ*), 25 different colors, all beauties.
"And everywhere the purple asters
Nod and bend and wave and flit."

1 Packet Larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), double dwarf rocket, 15 colors.

1 Packet Sweet Mignonette (*Reseda odorata*), large and double, 3 colors.

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1 Packet Nasturtium (*Tropæolum Geraniaceæ*), tall, mixed, orange, scarlet, crimson, yellow and spotted. This strain is superb.

1 Packet Pansy (*Viola Tricolor*), the new and popular Admiral Dewey strain, large flowers, great variety of colorings.
"It seems to me much worthier argument
Why pansies' eyes that laugh, bear beauty's prize
From violets, eyes that dream."

1 Packet Poppy (*Papaver Eschscholtzia*), all expensive and desirable mixed colors, at least 50 different varieties.

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1 Packet Sweet Alyssum (*Alyssum maritimum*), strong and hardy, white blossoms, always popular. All tested seeds.
"A modest flower-bed thickly sown
With sweet alyssum and columbine."

1 Packet Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus Odoratus*), the new *McCleary* strain, just grown, and probably the handsomest sweet pea ever put upon the market. Comes from *Sicily.* Has large, fragrant flowers, embracing 40 variously colored varieties.



THE ABOVE 10 SEPARATE PACKETS, BESIDES 400 *other varieties,* including *Blue Ageratum, Balsam,* all colors; *Bachelor Button,* all colors *Candytuft,* 3 leading varieties; *Calendula,* orange, Prince and mixed; *Calliopsis,* more than 40 varieties; *Chrysanthemum,* white, lavender, yellow and pink; *Four o'Clock,* striped, red, white, and 7 others; *Forget-Me-Not,* blue and trusty; *Marigold,* French and African mixed, all colors; *Petunia,* red, white, salmon-pink, and mixed colors; *Phlox Drummondii,* nature's own eye, many beautiful colors; *Carnation,* double and single pinks mixed; *Salvia,* brilliant red flowers, even after frost; *Sunflower,* large California and Oscar Wilde varieties; *Sweet William,* the small botanical jewel; *Verbena Grandiflora* and *Hybrid,* all colors, mixed; *Zinnia,* double and single mixed, over a dozen varieties; *Amaranthus Snap-Dragon,* yellow and pink varieties, with red; *Gilia Flowers,* Virginia's Pride, etc., etc., etc. **Do** not **forget** *that 20 cents pays for* **THE GENTLEWOMAN** for *three months* and this **grand** and **gorgeous collection** of *tested* **SEEDS,** *four hundred and ten* **(410)** *different varieties.* We are a responsible publishing house, duly incorporated under State laws, and we *guarantee you satisfaction,* or will cheerfully refund you your money. We do this solely to introduce to you **THE GENTLEWOMAN,** and we feel sure that you will become a regular subscriber after you have read and enjoyed it for three months. *Enclose 20 cents* in your letter and *sign your name and address plainly.*

THE GENTLEWOMAN PUBLISHING CO.,
22 North William Street, New York, N. Y.

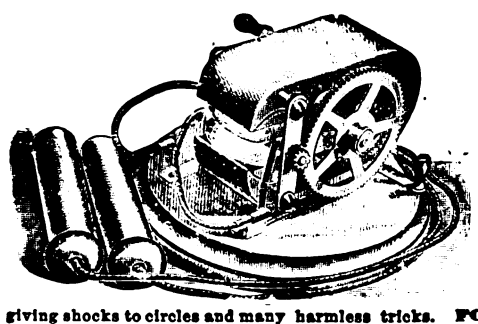
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ELECTRICITY IS LIFE.

THE GREAT HOME HEALER.

Pain Vanishes, Blooming Health Returns at the Touch of Science.

Read of this Modern Scientific Machine that Heals, Teaches and Amuses.



Electricity no longer the master but the servant of man, represents to us light, heat and force. By these three great powers everything on earth lives and electricity means life. This grand machine is a combined motor and dynamo and gives a perfect electric organization. Most interesting and instructive of the recent products of electrical science; teaches and instructs while it amuses, young and old alike. Scientific in construction and no student or ingenious boy should be without it. Perfectly harmless, but produces no end of fun, by giving shocks to circles and many harmless tricks. **FOR A HOME CURER.** Doctors know almost every known disease and pain yields readily to electrical currents. The cost of electric batteries as generally sold places them far beyond reach of any but the wealthy. This Electrical Machine has been produced by the latest and most improved machinery and at nominal cost as compared with the expensive batteries formerly sold at $8, $10 or $20 each. The great improvements in machinery enables us to produce this and to offer it to you for a mere trifle. **See What Electricity is Used For.** There is no disease of the nerves or any bodily pain which will not yield readily to electric currents. This wonderful machine utilizes the forces of nature; drives out **Rheumatic Pains, Neuralgia** and every species of **blood** and **nerve disease;** Cures **Weakness of every kind and nature and restores youthful health and vigor. Works like a miracle for that worn out feeling and languor and despondency and strengthening nervous system with a direct** (not alternating) **current,** large in volume but pleasant to take, no shock or irritation. Patent switch adjusts current to weakest child or strongest man. A valuable treatise accompanies every machine shipped. We now place nature's great restorative agent, Electricity, within the reach of every sufferer rich or poor.

A Wonderful Offer to All. This Electrical Machine is needed in every home and family. We will send one to any person who will send us $1.00, and 25 cents to pay all shipping charges besides sending our great home paper, COMFORT, subscription paid for one year. ($1.25 for everything.)

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

AN old country church in England is hardly the kind of place to look for evidence concerning the origin of that modern article of speedy frivolity, the bicycle. And yet it has been discovered that here, in a stained glass window in the ancient church of Stoke Poges, made famous as the place where the poet Gray obtained the local coloring for his elegy, is a representation of the original of all the great family of wheelmen and wheelwomen who possess our highways to-day.

It is truly startling, this sudden discovery of the original wheelman, for since the bicycle became popular many so-called authentic stories have been written, giving the exact date when the progenitor of the modern safety came into existence, but none of the authors of these contributions to wheeling literature mention the bicycle window in the church of Stoke Poges. Here, then, is the first information the wheeling world will have of the existence of this remarkable window, which is shown in the accompanying illustration. What artist made the window that shows the figure of a primitive man astride a wheel of curious construction is not known. The only thing actually certain about the record of the window is that the panel bears the date of 1642, which antedates the time when the first bicycle was supposed to have come into existence by 120 years.

The pope a few years ago, in granting permission to priests to use bicycles, took occasion to announce that the wheel was invented by Abbe Painton, who used it in 1845. About the same time that Leo XIII. made this statement, F. R. Shipton, Secretary of the Cyclists' Touring Club, of England, asserted that the first machine was invented by a Scotchman in 1846. Another correspondent asserts that, strictly speaking, no one invented the bicycle—"it just growed." The bicycle is the developed result of a long series of mechanical contrivances for the acceleration of individual motion, and its beginnings are probably of older date than many people have imagined.

In August, 1665, Mr. John Evelyn, on his way back to London from his home at Wotton, called at Durdano, near Epsom, and afterward noted in his diary that he had found Dr. Wilkins, Sir William Petty and Mr. Hooke "contriving chariots, new rigging for ships, a wheel for one to run races in, and other mechanical inventions. Perhaps three such persons together were not to be found elsewhere in Europe for parts and ingenuity." What was this wheel in which one could run races? It is impossible now to say, but the description is curiously suggestive of some contrivance of the cycling kind.

Another one hundred years were to pass before anything resembling the modern cycle was to be invented. The first velocipedes, as they were so long called, appear to have been made in France. In the "Journal de Paris" of June 27, 1779, there is an account of a velocipede invented by MM. Blanchard and Magurier, which seems to have been a clumsy affair of four wheels, carrying two people and very heavy to work. This invention was a false start. No one followed it up or improved upon it, and no further attempt in this direction was made for some thirty or forty years. Then appeared the "dandy horse," upon which our fathers and great-grandfathers disported themselves gayly, albeit at times a trifle laboriously, for a brief season. When the crank was first invented, or who invented it, is quite uncertain. The date must have been early in the present century, but who first hit upon it is quite unknown. It was possibly first attached to a three-wheel machine.

It seems, however, that the bicycle was introduced into England about 1873, and into the United States in 1877 in the high wheel form, which was the immediate forerunner of the safety. About the year 1616 one Baron Von Drais devised a vehicle to assist him in the performance of his daily duties as chief forester of the Grand Duke of Baden. This machine, which was named Draisine, after the inventor, was thought to be the first rudimentary bicycle. The bicycle depicted on the window of the Stoke Poges church bears a general resemblance to this Draisine machine, although it is still more primitive in appearance. The Draisine was composed of two wheels connected by a bar astride of which the "rider" sat, and propelled the machine by thrusting at the ground with his feet.

"Johnston's Curicle" was the next step towards the modern bicycle. It was a "hobby horse" like the Draisine, and the ridicule it excited speedily caused its downfall. It was not until the invention in 1840 of the system of propulsion by means of a gear attached to the wheels that the bicycle's popularity was assured.

Since then many able treatises on the subject of the bicycle's originator have given credit to the Baron Von Drais that will no longer be accorded him now that the existence of the bicycle window of Stoke Poges church has been made public.

How impressive have become the changes that a few years have brought about in the world of cycledom. Those of us who may fairly be termed "old timers," cannot but be affected by the modifications in the order of things pertaining to cycling. 'Tis but a short flight backward to the days when wheeling was only enjoyed by those who were supposed to be long of purse and steady of nerve, though in the opinion of our farmer friends, and, indeed, not a few others, short of brain.

Those were the days when we rode wheels for the sport there was in it, pure and simple, the happy hours of superiority over our fellow men, and the glorious times of braids, bugles, and blue uniforms. Indeed, I always pity the safety rider who does not know of the exhilarating uncertainty of a ride on a high wheel.

All this is past and gone. The masses wheel for business nowadays—to save care fare, and to go home to lunch. The clergy and the drummer, the doctor and the plumber, all find that the wheel is no longer a toy and a fad for pleasure. It has its uses and its abuses.

The very conditions of things to-day are presenting problems, and serious ones, too, growing out of this unprecedented adaptation of a plaything for the idler into a necessity for the man of business.



A CHURCH WINDOW CONTAINING IN AN UPPER PANEL A BICYCLE. IT WAS MADE 120 YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST BICYCLE KNOWN TO HISTORY. IT IS A GREAT MYSTERY.

It is impossible to enumerate how far-reaching the use of the wheel has become.

Here is a good parody on Proverbs up to date.

The world's a cycle, and the folks
Are nothing but the cycler's spokes.

One man may seat a cyclist fair,
But ten men can not keep her there.

She rises brightly with the dawn,
While yet the dew is on the lawn.

And ere 'tis dried from hill and plain,
She rises many a time again.

A novice and her wheel soon part
And pride is humbled at the start.

The upright rider winneth praise,
But who can mend the humped one's ways?

Behold the woman riding down
Swift as the lightning through the town.

She scorcheth through the outer gate
And goeth far and stayeth late.

Her husband, in the market place,
The elders mock unto his face.

"Thou buttonless!" they cry; "all hail,
Go clasp thy raiment with a nail!"

He plucks his beard and saith a swear,
But he doth not his garment tear.

For no one bides at home to darn
(Save orally) his suit of yarn.

One of the most difficult duties laid upon a man is the balancing his life between what appears to be antagonistic tendencies.

With the Revolutionary, the Civil and the Spanish wars the United States will certainly have her fill of pensions to be distributed.

HOW CITY PEOPLE DRESS.

Good dressers in city and country wear the American Woolen Mills Co.'s made to measure suits at $6.00 to $10.00; pants, $1.75 to $5.00, made and sent anywhere in the U. S., to be paid for after examination. For large cloth samples of entire line and full information about ordering, cut this notice out and mail to us. Agents wanted in every unoccupied county in the U. S. Address, American Woolen Mills Co., Chicago.

If you are tired of your white enamelled bedstead you can change the entire aspect of your bedroom by painting the bedstead black and dressing it up with a coverlet of antique lace over red satin. Have dark red draperies at the windows and red rugs on a dark, polished floor.

SEED DUE BILL FREE

To get new customers to test my seeds I will mail my handsome **catalogue for 1899**, lithographed and beautifully illustrated, and a **10c. Due Bill**, good for 10c. worth of seeds for trial, **absolutely free.** It is full of bargains. All the **Best Seeds, Bulbs, Plants, Roses, new Fruits, Farm Seeds, Potatoes,** etc., at lowest prices. **Ten Great Novelties** offered without names. I will pay **$50. FOR A NAME** for each. Don't buy your stock until you see this new catalogue. Several varieties shown in colors. Great inducements for orders this year. **You will be surprised** at my bargain offers. Send your address on Postal to-day. Tell your friends to send too. Old customers will receive a copy.
F. B. MILLS, Seedsman, Box 26, Rose Hill, N.Y.

Honorable, genteel canvassing, no capital. **WORK** either sex, no canvassing. Free Samples for stamp. Equitable Reporting Co., Dept. B, 247 W. 125th St., N.Y.

PICTURES FRAMES AND ART NOVELTIES. Two Dollar outfit free to Agents. Send for large illustrated catalogue. M. N. FRIEDMAN & CO., Manuf'rs, Martinsburg, Mo.

REDUCED TO $3.50.



To place our new improved Thermal Vapor Bath Cabinet in every home, we send them complete for 30 days, with alcohol stove, directions, formulas, to any address, upon receipt of $3.50 each. Head steaming attch., 75c. extra. ORDER TO-DAY. **Ours the best Cabinet made. Rubber-lined. Latest improvements. Cures without drugs a hard cold** with one bath, **rheumatism, la grippe, female troubles, all blood, skin, kidney and nervous diseases. Guaranteed** as represented **or money refunded. Recommended by best physicians.** We're responsible. Ship promptly. **Descriptive book FREE. Special wholesale prices to agents.** Address the m'f'rs, **Toledo Bath Cabinet Co., Toledo, Ohio.**
The above firm are reliable, and do as they agree.—Editor

SEND ONE DOLLAR cut this ad out and send to us and if you live East of the Rocky Mountains we will send this **HIGH-GRADE TOP BUGGY** to you by freight C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot and if you find it **EQUAL TO ANY $100.00 TOP BUGGY** you ever saw, perfectly satisfactory and the **GRANDEST BARGAIN YOU HAVE EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF,** pay the railroad agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE $55.00** and freight charges, less the One Dollar sent with order.

$16.50 TO $90.00 BUGGIES AND SURREYS.



ACME QUEEN. (OUR OWN MAKE.)

BUILT IN OUR OWN FACTORY IN CHICAGO, on honor from the best material money can buy. While in our Free Buggy Catalogue we show, Top Buggies made by other makers at **$21.50, $28.75 and $34.75** the exact same buggy that is sold by machinery dealers, **at** $45.00 to $75.00 and are being widely advertised by many at $35.00 to $60.00.

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February brings the holidays that show the admiration of the American people for Washington, the creator of the nation, and Lincoln, its preserver. No February in our history has ever developed more momentous issues than those of to-day. The nation of our two greatest men to-day belts the globe and brings with its territorial increase duties as grave as those that confronted the two greatest men in our history. They knew moments of discouragement but they persevered. We may face dark days but we shall know how to bear any burdens that may be laid upon us. The hour always brings the man.

The portrait show held in New York for the benefit of a hospital brought the work of the most eminent portrait painters all over the world into one collection. The eminent artists of France, England and America were well represented. The portraits of women proved one thing. The beauty and grace of the old time portraits is rivaled by the beauty of these modern women. There is no charm of shy witchery, no naive expression of a portrait of our grandmother's day that does not find its match in these modern maidens. No dashing beauty of the court of Louis or of Bonny Prince Charlie's time but can find a worthy rival in the "grande dames" of the portrait show.

One of the interesting developments of the library systems in great cities is seen in the plans of the New York City Circulating library. A number of books suitable for children are packed in a neat case and sent to the home of any child who will distribute them among her playfellows and collect them for safe return at the end of the time allowed. As each case is sent a woman goes to the home of the receiver of the books and endeavors to interest the children in the books. This is really an application of the state system of traveling libraries with the addition of the library employee who gives an idea of what the books are about. Many educators boldly proclaim that it were better that a child did not know how to read than that he be given this key to knowledge and then turned loose in the midst of pernicious and bad books with no hand to direct or guide his taste. To place good books within his reach and then to furnish a guide to create and stimulate the taste for good reading is certainly a noble work.

The American possesses a certain light airy surface manner that leads him to jest when he is most in earnest. One of the recent new figures introduced in the German is the Battle of Manila Bay or the Admiral Dewey. Each side merrily bombards the other with confetti balls. These society bombs burst in air and showers of gayly colored streamers fly in every direction. It is quite sure that none of those participating in this frolic fail to understand the tragic importance of the historical significance of that battle. At the same time it is in rather questionable taste to take the amusement of the moment under the name of such an event as the Battle of Manila. There was loss of life in the battle and not even the gay surge of dance music or the colors of a favor for the German can totally shut out the graves that lie by Manila Bay. We are too close to the sound of actual war to make a jest of its paraphernalia. There is national courage. It jars upon a fine sense of eternal fitness when the event that opened to this nation a great eastern empire is made the name for a careless revel. These very society butterflies have shown that they had patriotism and self sacrifice in the interests of their country. Let them also show that they can appreciate the dignity of achievement.

The Board of Health of New York City has added one more horror to the generous list of attainments in that line already in the scope of the dreaded "Grip." Sufferers have always been able to gather what comfort there might be in the sympathy of friends who listened to and condoled with the victims. Now the Board says that "grip" is contagious. To all its other horrors must be added that of suffering alone or of bearing the well-known stigma of the one who "begun it" from the victims of contiguous sympathy. Now let some scientist tell us how to destroy the "bacillus." It is really a great social triumph for this unrecognized member to be admitted by scientific approval to the royal family of discomfort and death—the germs. In these later days, not to be familiar with germs and microbes is to write yourself an emphatic back number. The bacillus of grip has never been recognized before but it has gone its way and made even the aristocracy of the germ family look to their laurels. At last the disposed bacillus has come into its own. It has been classified, and suffering humanity may indulge in the faint hope that now that it has entered the "four hundred" of the germ family it may be content with a scientific recognition of its existence and less direct proof of its activity among the laity. "Watch out" for the grip bacillus and give it the cut direct.

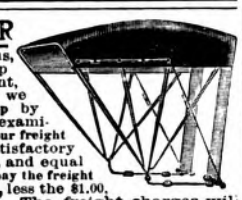
England has shown a most gratifying interest in her sometimes rebellious child. Some confirmed doubters have tried to see "a revenue only" side to this long supposed affection. We all know family quarrels are the most bother in the world but we also know that the same sensitiveness to wrong will make the most quarrelsome family unite against any outsider. It seems so with the great Anglo-Saxon family. We are of kindred blood. The proposal to place a statue of George Washington in Westminster Abbey is but another expression of a sentiment that has been growing between the English speaking races on the other side of the water. We can hope that it may be found possible to place this statue. No greater recognition could be given of a fact that Sir Edward Thornton once stated when he said, "Englishmen know that it was their battle as well as your own that was fought in the Revolution." It is the battle that the English speaking race has been fighting since its birth—the battle against arbitrary, tyrannical rule whether it be of a nation over its colonies, of a king over his subjects, or of a class of men over their more unfortunate fellows. The broader minded portion of the race have fought this battle against their own people when they failed to see the right. They have fought it against "lesser breeds without the law" wherever the great question of eternal right and wrong demanded settlement. A statue of George Washington in the great historic burial ground of those who have made England great would proclaim to all the world that a battle for a principle that was right was not a battle of one nation against another, but of those who sow the right, whether in England or America, against those who hold to a wrong.

"Man is the only animal that laughs," is a trite saying. We do hear of "crocodile tears" and of "grinning like a Cheshire cat," and sometimes of a "laughing hyena," but we fall back on the old saying as an indisputable proof of man's superiority. Of course "man" is used in the general sense and the feminine portion has decided that the one peculiarity that raises us above the brute should be cultivated to esthetic perfection. So my lady if she be of the latest mode, takes lessons in laughing. No loud, boisterous "haw haw" is to be tolerated. It is not to laugh but to laugh well. The class in laughing are given the pitch from a pitch pipe. Then they laugh up and down the scale. They laugh in the key suitable to a drawing-room, and they laugh pianissimo and crescendo, forte and diminuendo. In fact they make a careful, conscientious effort to substantiate the claims of the authors who speak of "silvery peals of mirth" and "low, musical laughter."

Seriously speaking, there is no surer evidence of culture or of lack of culture than the laugh. The voice may be trained so that it rings fairly true but the tone of the laugh fixes the social status at once. It gives an index of character that can be trusted. The laugh of the selfish, narrow, self-centered individual indicates his character. It is impossible not to trust a person who laughs out in a free, merry burst of good feeling. The shy person, the secretive, suspicious person rarely laughs aloud. No slip of tongue, eye, or lip betrays the inherent coarseness of some natures, but let the person laugh aloud and they stand revealed. The giggle is usually a sign of extreme self-consciousness and of a nervous temperament, whose whole universe is obscured to her own personality. Cultivation will change or destroy the index to individuality furnished by laughter. A merry laugh is a charm worth cultivating and laughing *to* music till laughter *is* music should be encouraged.

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181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
35	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
18	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Strob
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
33	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
43	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
63	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
137	My Love Polka	Ziehrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
83	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
29	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
57	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
26	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
44	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reissmann
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
12	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Elialine. Waltz song	Betts
4	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song	Mosher
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
148	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
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172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
54	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall

Orders to be by Numbers (not names).

DON'T FORGET that the price you have to pay for this sheet music is only **twenty-five cents**; that for this you get **ten pieces**, not one; that the quality is the best; that it is sent to any address, postpaid; that all the little details are up to the standard **including colored titles**; that the vocal pieces have full piano accompaniments; that the instrumental pieces give the bass as well as melody; that this sheet music is equal to any published. Also **don't forget** to make your selection at once, to send us the order, and to tell your friends about this great **Sheet Music Offer.** Satisfaction guaranteed. **Order by Numbers.**

PRICE OF ABOVE PIECES.

Any 10 for 25 cents.
Any 21 for 50 cents.
Any 43 for $1.00.
Any 100 for $2.25.
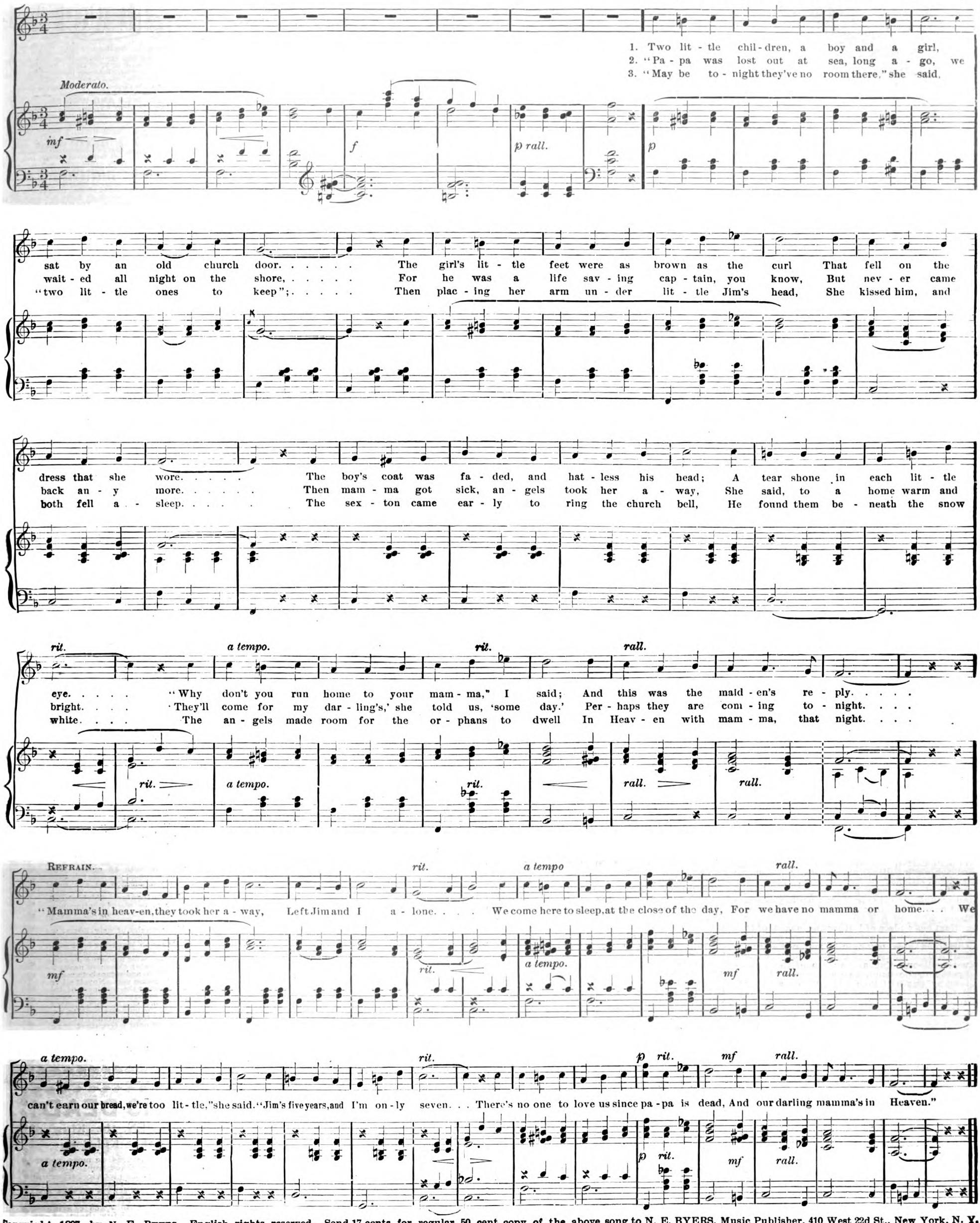
Write your name, full address, and list of pieces wanted by **the numbers**; enclose this, with stamps or silver, and mail or bring to address given below, and the music will be sent direct from Boston, postage prepaid.

SPECIAL OFFER To secure new trial subscriptions or extend old subscriptions, if you will send 15c. for 3 months extra subscription, we will send **any six** of the above pieces **free** as a premium, and for 25c will send **any ten** pieces or to *any subscriber who will select* **any twenty-one** *of the above pieces and send us* 50c *we will renew their subscription to "Comfort" for one year and* **give** *the music delivered absolutely free. You can readily sell ten pieces of the music for* 50c *and thereby obtain your subscription and the other eleven pieces for nothing. Don't delay, but order today.*

Address "COMFORT Music Room," Augusta, Maine.

MAMMA'S IN HEAVEN.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY E. NINIAN.



Copyright 1897, by N. E. BYERS. English rights reserved. Send 17 cents for regular 50 cent copy of the above song to N. E. BYERS, Music Publisher, 410 West 22d St., New York, N. Y.

THE LATEST IDEAS IN MUSIC.

A Few Words on the Growing Popularity of Good Music, Cheap.

The beautiful song published above is somewhat of a change from the music in a lighter vein, which has more recently appeared in COMFORT, but will be none the less welcome to the thousands and thousands of readers who also enjoy music, and have become accustomed to look eagerly each month for COMFORT'S music page, knowing that upon it will be found the choicest and best of the more recent artistic musical productions.

Music publishers who cling to antiquated ideas and methods have always contended that good music could not be sold at low prices; that there was a comparatively limited number of people sufficiently versed in music to appreciate high class work; that these people were generally wealthy; and that the great expense of producing music in sheets compelled them to adopt and hold excessive rates. But COMFORT once saw a place where soda water was sold at ten and fifteen cents a glass. The druggists said it cost high and only the wealthy could afford it. Pretty soon a bright man sold it for three and five cents a glass and sold so much that he made more aggregate profit than all his ten-cent competitors combined.

COMFORT has always believed in the good taste of the masses and has been convinced that the experiment of giving the best and highest music at low prices and within the reach of all, has been a perfect success, and we are convinced that more good music has been sent wide-spread through America by our efforts than by all other agencies joined.

But by far our greatest triumph has been the production of elegant sheet music of finest quality and character and clearly printed in large words and notes at practically the cost of mailing. It is impossible to realize that music that one pays from forty cents to a dollar for at music stores can be obtained through COMFORT'S wonderful music offer for a trifling cost can be true; and yet such is the fact.

If instead of being doubtful readers would send or have their friends do so, we can assure them that we would gladly refund the money if the buyer were not entirely satisfied, or if it appeared that we had in any way exaggerated or deceived as to what the music really is. Certainly no offer could be fairer than this and you will have no cause to complain if you take the same advantage of low prices that hundreds of thousands of people are now doing.

To both old and new friends we call attention to the offer on another page and especially among the many new pieces to No. 193, Poet and Peasant Overture, by Von Suppe. The original complete edition of this celebrated overture, consisting of ten full pages from entirely new plates, made especially for this number, usually sold in high-priced music stores for 75c.; No. 194, She Sleeps Among the Daisies, words by C. H. Webb, music by Lon Dinsmore; No. 195, Killarney, the celebrated Irish ballad by W. M. Balfe.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE woman who lives in or near one of the large cities has much the advantage of the one who lives in the country, for she can look over the newly brought out fancy things in the shops, and, if she is clever, duplicate them while they are yet novel. The woman who lives far removed from the great trade centers must wait until these ideas are brought to her through the medium of some paper—either described in an article, or in an advertisement.

One of the articles to which we wish to call attention this month, and which is comparatively new, is certainly the most useful that has come to our notice in many moons. It is a receptacle for broken needles—such dangerous things to have around, particularly where there are children or four-footed pets.

This little friend in need is as modest and simple as one could desire—being only a small bottle such as homeopathic physicians use for their little pellets; over the top of the bottle is tied a piece of silk, no cork being used, and around the neck of the bottle is tied a piece of narrow ribbon to cover the edges of the silk and the thread with which it is tied. Baby ribbon is used for this, and ends of three or four inches are left dangling; these ends are used for tying the bottle to the handle of the work basket, and then it is always at hand, and the broken needle can be slipped through the silk top and down into the bottle, where it may rest in peace, (also in pieces) until the bottle is full; then the top can be removed, the little sharp points be consigned to the stove, the only safe place for them, a new top be put on and the bottle again tied to the old stand, where it will continue to do a thriving business.

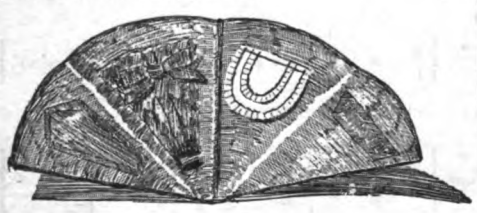


Store this idea up, if it happens to be new to you, and next December when Gladys wonders what she will give to her Aunts, bring it out and let her make half a dozen, and, my word for it, the Aunts will be more than delighted with her forethought.

We illustrate herewith a little needle book, which also holds scissors and thread; it is not a new idea, but is so useful that it will stand a description. It is something that can be utilized as a gift to a man, and is also a handy little traveling companion for a woman, as it can always be kept well stocked, and when going away for a day or two can be slipped into a hand bag, taking up little room, and yet will be found very convenient in the event of a glove or boot button becoming loosened.

If possible, get a skin of bronzed leather; from one skin half a dozen of these little books may be made. The book is a half circle, measuring ten inches across the straight side and, of course, five inches at the widest point of the circle. Bind all around with brown galloon, stitched on by machine. Then cut a lining of satin or silk one-fourth inch larger all around than the leather; turn in the edges and hem this lining onto the wrong side of book.

Next cut a piece of leather the shape of that on our diagram marked "scissors pocket"—this to be three inches long and one and one-half wide at the widest point. Bind the edges with galloon. Cut also a strip of the leather for the needle band, two and one-half inches long by one-half inch wide, which also bind. Attach the latter near one end of the book, onto the lining, by fastening firmly at both ends; then fasten it also in the middle, and there will be room to slip two papers of needles under the band. On the other end of the book fasten the scissors pocket.



FINISHED NEEDLEBOOK.

Next to the scissors pocket comes a pocket for thread, which is made of the same material as the lining of the book, and the shape may be seen in our diagram. This should measure three inches in depth by three in width at the top, tapering off a little at the bottom. Draw the bottom closely together, hem and shirr the top, and then attach to lining.

* For the fourth and last compartment, make two leaves of white flannel, buttoned-holed around the edges—the larger leaf to measure two and one-half inches across the top, and the smaller one inch less—the leaves being rounded at the bottom edges, in good proportion. Attach the e in their place, one above the other, and then fold the book by bringing the two outer edges to the center, and then folding these edges together. At the point where the edges come together after folding, attach two pieces of narrow ribbon, to match in color the lining, with which to tie the book together, and put a small bow of the same on the pocket, inside.

Red morocco may also be bought in the skin, and is very pretty when made into these books, particularly when lined with cream or white satin.

Someone has sent us word that pads for stairs, to be used under the carpet, may easily be made at home; of course we all know what a saving they are to the carpet. Take half-worn blankets, which have been shrunken in repeated washings so that they are no longer useful for the beds; sprinkle with pepper and make into flat pads to fit the stairs, covering with thin calico. These pads should be one inch shorter than the width of the carpet, and five inches wide, and placed under the carpet directly over the edge of the stair, where the wear comes. Of course you know what the pepper is for.

This same person tells us to air our bookcases! this is a good suggestion, for books in a continually closed case become musty and ill-

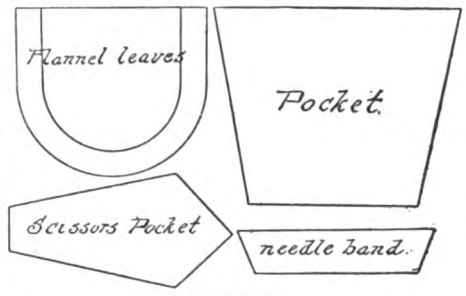


DIAGRAM.

smelling. Therefore, each week when the sweeping has been done, open wide the doors of the bookcase and let in the fresh air.

PEPSIN-SALTED PEANUTS.

Dyspepsia, Insomnia and Other Ills Cured by the Common American Peanut.

IF the day ever dawns when science shall have robbed Nature of her last secret the world's people of that era will marvel at the host of simple things that Nature possessed for the welfare of mankind. Diligent investigation has lately discovered that the common American peanut contains qualities which when scientifically prepared and made operative with **salt** and **pepsin** in proper proportions acts with amazing promptitude on the gastric juices, relieving almost immediately dyspeptic disturbances, and, in time, curing dyspepsia in its worst forms.

To America is due the honor of having first produced the peanut (arachis hypogæa). Its true name is "goober," and Virginia is noted for exceptionally large crops of the nut. Since something of its real value has become known other warm countries succeeded in growing it. The plant is leguminous and of many branches, resembling somewhat the clover. It is planted and cared for much like peas or beans and is sometimes called earth or ground nut on account of its vines running along on the ground. Two years ago any one recommending peanuts for dyspepsia would have been geered at, and rightly, too, for it is of more recent date that the medicinal qualities of the nut were discovered. Until this discovery these qualities were dominated by an oil in which the peanut is rich. This oil is non-drying and valuable as a lubricant. It is also used extensively as an adulterant for olive oil.

Frequent experiments discovered that the peanut was also rich in nutriment, and that this food when **peptonized** acted like magic in dispelling heartburn, curing insomnia, and putting the digestive apparatus in working order. All well-informed medical men know that science has succeeded in isolating so pure a pepsin that it will digest 25,000 times its own weight in albumen. Pepsin is one of the albuminoids or nitrogenous substances, and it has the power of converting proteids into peptones. When the process of digestion does not furnish sufficient pepsin to accomplish complete assimilation of the food dyspepsia begins to entrench itself in the system. Then have a care, for, if its inroads are not blocked and the disease routed, years of intense suffering are sure to follow.

Everybody likes peanuts. Ever since the first "Young America" laughed at the antics of the circus clown peanuts have been popular. Children love to eat them on the sly "when the teacher isn't looking," while older persons have been known to crack them quietly in their pockets and sneak the palatable kernels into their mouths at the theater. Even the confirmed dyspeptic loves them, but is afraid. Who, it may be asked, ever expected to hear of peanuts being used as a remedy for **dyspepsia**, for **Bright's Disease**, for **Diabetes**, for **Insomnia** and for corpulency?

Germany claims the credit of having discovered the possibilities of the peanut, and an eminent chemist **in our employ** has demonstrated that **"pepsin-salted"** peanuts lose none of the peanut flavor in the preparation. Our process of preparing them is such that the oil is neutralized while the flavor and the medicinal properties of the nut are retained. This makes a **food-medicine** that is certain to be the delight of everybody.

In connection with medicinal qualities of **pepsin-salted** peanuts it might be interesting as well as instructive to know that peanuts outrank, by a large percentage, such nutritive foods as cheese, peas, beef, rice, potatoes, milk, rye flour, and veal. Already the Germans are making flour and butter from the peanut, and the success of the venture has been such that peanut planters everywhere are preparing to double their usual crops.

We are the first in the United States to prepare **pepsin-salted** peanuts for the market, and we hope to merit success solely from the quality of the goods which we shall dispose of through our agents at 10c. per package.

Experiments have proved that our pepsin-salted peanuts will cure heartburn and relieve all the other pangs of chronic dyspepsia.

Sufferers from the effects of Bright's Disease and other kidney troubles have noted marked progress after treatment.

Corpulency disappears because the **pepsin-salted** peanuts digests and makes other food digest.

Half a handful eaten one hour before retiring will induce sleep and a continuation of **pepsin-salted** peanuts rightly will cure insomnia.

Notice COMFORT'S special offer in advertisement on another page of "Two thousand packages shelled peanuts sent free," write at once **for a sample package as per their offer.**



FOLDED.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

Between our cabinet and other makes? These cuts speak plainer than words. **Our New 1900 style Quaker Folding Vapor Bath Cabinet has a Door,** has a self-supporting steel frame, galvanized, covering of antiseptic, hygienic cloth, rubber lined. **Cabinet does not rest on the shoulders, nor pull over your head. No woodwork to warp.** To operate, simply open door, step in, bathe, cool off, step out. Only perfect Cabinet made. Folded it is 3 in. thick, 15 in. wide, 16 in. long, weighs only 5 lbs. Patented. **$26.000 sold. Recommended by Best Physicians** for bathing purposes. It opens the pores, sweats out the poisons, makes you clean, strong, vigorous and healthy. **Cures bad cold with one bath.** Cures rheumatism, lagrippe, insomnia, obesity, female troubles, all blood skin, nerve and kidney diseases. **Immediate Relief Guaranteed in Worst Cases. Cabinet, Frame, Stove, Formulas and Directions sent anywhere upon receipt of $5.00.** Face Steaming attachment, **$1.00** extra. **Order today.** You won't be disappointed. **It's guaranteed as represented, or money refunded.** We are responsible. Capital $100,000.00. Largest manufacturers of Bath Cabinets in the world. **Write us any way.**

Our Valuable Descriptive Book, Testimonials, Etc., FREE!

We recommend above firm as thoroughly reliable.—EDITOR.

DON'T BE DECEIVED.



Not Ours. Goods don't roll back like shown in cut. Cabinet must be lifted and pulled over your head. Dangerous Folded its over 3 ft. long, 2 ft. wide **Can't be Carried.**

No Door.

Not Ours. Store Box. Wood Frame, Cracks, Warps. Weighs 20 lbs. Folded it's 3½ ft. long, 2½ ft. wide **Can't be Carried.**

AGENTS WANTED, MEN AND WOMEN. $100.00 a Month and Expenses.

Address, **F. B. WORLD MANUFACTURING CO.,** Cincinnati, O.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.



THE YANKEE FIRE-KINDLER Builds 100 Fires with 3c of oil. No kindlings. Warranted 3 years. Greatest Seller for Agents ever invented. Sample with terms prepaid, 15c. YANKEE KINDLER CO., OLNEY, ILL. 37, Sta. R.

STEEL WOVEN FARM FENCE.. 30 to 60cts per rod

Heaviest, strongest and best steel fence made. Write for free catalogue.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO





Each, 35c; per dozen, $4.00



Each, 28c; per dozen, $3.15

Cheaper Plow Singletrees. Each, 16c; per dozen, $1.80



Each, 40c; per dozen, $4.35

Best Hickory WAGON NECK-YOKES, SINGLETREES AND EVENERS, FULL SIZE, finished and ironed complete with best Norway wrought iron, at prices named under each cut; assorted dozen at regular dozen price. **ORDER 12 ASSORTED** at dozen price. 12 assorted will weigh about 100 lbs., freight will be about 50 cents for each 500 miles. **You will save $2.00 to $5.00.** Money back at once if you are not pleased. Write for Catalogue of Wagon Material.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO

$100 Per mo. and exp. paid salesmen on cigars; experience unnecessary; steady position. BAILEY BROS., Philadelphia, Pa.

The World's Greatest Offer!

The great enterprise of a famous New York publishing house whereby every reader of this paper can secure **a big dollar's worth** for a few cents. Our offer beyond a question the most liberal ever made. We give

A BIG PREMIUM PACKAGE of useful Household Goods, Jewelry, etc., for the small sum of **20**cts. which, when the greatness of this offer is considered, everyone should take immediate advantage of.

OUR PURPOSE is not to get the few cents that we ask in this advertisement, and send you something of little value. We publish **"The Paragon Monthly."** It is a large illustrated magazine, carefully edited, illustrated and filled with the choicest original literary matter that the best authors can produce. In the ordinary way its merit would force it to the front and in a few years we would easily have a circulation of at least half-a-million for everyone who subscribes is so pleased that we seldom, if ever, fail to receive a renewal, but instead of wasting years to accomplish our aim we have decided to force it to the front as rapidly as possible and to attain our aim and swell our subscription up the desired mark with the least possible delay. We have prepared a great premium package of **Useful Household Goods, Novelties and Jewelry** which we give absolutely **FREE** with a year's subscription to the **"Paragon Monthly"** at only **20**cts. Our premium package has been made up with the one great aim in view of giving the utmost possible satisfaction even considering that it is free, but we desire to so thoroughly please every one answering this advertisement and convince them all we want is simply that they become regular readers of "The Paragon Monthly" that we have spared nothing—time, money and care, to make our offer as we justly claim it to be **The World's Greatest Premium Offer.**



Here is the List of Articles

They will come carefully packed and mailed postpaid

1. **Pocket Note Book.**—A nice strongly bound pocket note book, bound in beautifully colored covers.
2. **One Gold Plated Clover Leaf Scarf Pin.**—The presence of a lucky four leaf clover in this pin insures good fortune to the wearer so they say.
3—4. **Gold Plated Watch Chain** with neat horse shoe charm. This chain is complete with bar swivel and charm.
5. **Key Label** with tablet for name and address, something needed by everyone.
6. **Ladies' Gold Plated Bracelet.**—This is a neat gold plated bracelet with a beautiful stone set charm or bangle.
7. **Ladies' Silvered Brooch** to be worn as a clasp for evening scarf, has a pretty picture front.
8. **One Stone Set Ring**—Gold plated with colored stone setting.
9. **Fine Rose Pin.**—A celluloid rose with the beautiful colors of the real. Never fade.
10. **Aluminum Thimble.**—This is the grand new metal aluminum which never tarnishes, is light as a feather and stronger than silver. They sell at 10cts. each.
11. **Maltese Cross Bangle.**—This is a beautiful bangle with colored setting to be worn suspended from neck.
12. **Dewey Watch Charm.**—A fine portrait of the famous Admiral is stamped on the front of the charm. It is bright, nickel plated on white metal.
13. **Magic Gold Tube.**—A new and interesting novelty that will give great amusement.
14. **Parlor Game** with 15 cards. Now that the winter evenings are near this game will be a welcome addition to our great package.
15. **One Daisy Buttonier.**—This is a handsome buttonier to be worn in button hole. Looks like a real *Daisy*, beautifully colored and enameled.

SEND NOW while we hold open this great opportunity. Upon receipt of only **20**cts. we promptly mail to your address, postpaid, all of the above articles which we guarantee to be exactly as we state, nothing omitted, and THE PARAGON MONTHLY for 1 year.

OUR REPUTATION for fair dealing is such that you cannot fail to be more than pleased. Already we have a circle of 100,000 subscribers who are delighted with the many pleasing features of THE PARAGON MONTHLY. Shall we include you in this circle? You will never be offered again such an opportunity. Right now is the time to send **20**cts. and secure both magazine and goods. We have done everything possible in our power to please you. Now it all remains for you to act. In closing, we have but to state that considering the smallness of this advertisement we have had to leave a great deal we would liked to have said. We would liked to have told you more about our wonderful magazine, its editors, contributors, illustrators, etc., and make you more familiar with it, so as to show you the immense benefits you will receive by having it come regularly to your home, but as we make the opportunity so easy, only **20**cts., we know anyone who does not at once secure **The World's Greatest Premium Offer** will be blind to their own interests, and indeed foolish. Remit **20**cts. (in stamps or silver), and address all letters to

THE PARAGON MONTHLY, 22 North William St. New York, N. Y.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!



Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph of medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericardit's** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. **FREE.**

This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Margaret Spencer,	**$3.00**
Max Bennett,	**2.50**
L. R. Rogers,	**2.00**
Eva Dickinson,	**1.50**
Cecilia R. M. Blake,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Here we are all together once more, ready to listen to each other's tales of wonders we have seen, pleasures experienced, and good deeds witnessed. I think we all enjoy these chats, but I find my family circle is much like the rest of the world: most of you prefer to listen and enjoy without doing your part toward the general entertainment, leaving the talking to be done by a very few of your number. Now that is hardly fair. All of you have something which you could tell which would instruct or amuse the rest of us—some curious or wonderful sight, some interesting event, or some scientific discovery which has come to your personal knowledge; and we are all longing to hear you speak. So do please make an effort to gratify us.

Our first letter this month gives an account of "The Lost Indian God," which is said to have been cut by the Mohicans before the time of Uncas. I find the story, which is entirely new to me, very interesting, and I hope my nieces and nephews will find it equally so. Our cousin says:

WITH what thrills of delight old and young recall Mr. Cooper's wonderful story, 'The Last of the Mohicans.' They remember the great Sachem Uncas, whose mark was a turtle—an emblem of the tribe of which Mr. Cooper says 'it was the noblest among Indians, commanding peculiar respect when seen by the scattered tribes.' This same Uncas, when an old man in 1641, sold to English planters a tract of land in Connecticut, now called Guilford and Madison, not far from New Haven. He was paid in coats, kettles, hatchets and hoes. These deeds of sale, signed 'Uncas—his mark' and 'Ahaddon his son,' are now great curiosities.

"Remnants of this noted tribe still remained on their native soil in Connecticut as late as 1740, and still held in reverent possession the Indian God, whose picture is shown below. This stone image was doubtless cut by ancestors of these Indians long before the time of Uncas, as it was, even then, regarded by the tribe as a valued and choicely kept relic. After the extinction of the tribe it disappeared for a time, but for more than one hundred and fifty years it has been known to be near Madison. A letter is still in existence, written by an aged man to his grandchildren which says: 'Be sure and go to a hillock close by Tixis pond. There you will find a great curiosity. It is an Indian God made of stone.' The children found it as directed. Like a grim pilgrim from a long journey it is solemn and solitary, with great stone shoulders and rocky face. It is an image of a human being, dark, stained with lichens, briars and brambles. A collar or necklace is carved around its huge neck, dropping low under the massive chin. It was hauled by a Madison man to his own yard where visitors came from all parts of the country. Antiquarians and archæological students studied it, but none could exactly locate the period of its creation.



THE INDIAN GOD.

"Years passed; the family moved away. The idol disappeared. Again its huge head peered out of an old stone fence. The villagers welcomed its return, and children climbed the wall with awe and wonder to see the Indian God. One grandmother tells how she used to say, when a little mite and disappointed—'Well, I guess I'll go and see the old stone image anyhow.'

"A new depot was made, land cleared, walls torn down, and for fifty years the stone image was lost. In the growth of railroad interests it entirely passed off the face of the earth. A short time ago an old man chanced to recall the Indian God. He directed men to the spot where, covered with briers and brambles, roots and brush, lo! in another stone wall, solid, grim and perfect, was the lost God!

"Mr. Nathan Bushnell, one of the oldest inhabitants of Madison, removed it to his handsome grounds, where, as a rare relic of 1600, and the last of the Mohicans, it will probably always remain."

MARGARET SPENCER, East Haven, Conn.

Now we have an account of the celebration of Washington's Birthday at the "Farm School" in Boston Harbor, which is not only interesting reading but exceedingly appropriate to the month as well.

"In Boston Harbor there is a beautiful island, one hundred and fifty-seven acres in extent, called Thompson's Island. For over fifty years this island has been the property of the Farm School, a home training school at which there are always about one hundred boys from seven to eighteen years of age. There are no other residents on the island except the School and those connected with it, and life on the big farm there is as quiet as if the farm were in the middle of New England instead of only a mile and a half from the busy life of Boston.

"Especial attention is always paid to the regular holidays, and the good times which the boys have are planned to teach some lesson for each day. Washington's Birthday is always celebrated in a unique manner. Every year two big snow forts are built on the lawn. Early in February the boys elect two generals, and these boys choose officers and choose sides. Thus the School is divided into two companies. Each company builds its fort, and works days in doing so. These forts are large, high and strong. On Washington's Birthday everybody on the Island gathers to see the battle. Twenty bags are filled with sawdust and placed in one of the forts. Then the company which owns th t fort defends it for twenty minutes from the other. When time is called the number of bags which each side has counts so many points. Then after a rest the other side takes the bags and the struggle is reversed. Then all the bags are placed at some point equidistant from both forts and both sides make a rush for them, for twenty minutes. Finally the side which has scored the greatest number of points wins. They carry a banner of victory, and march about the grounds escorted by the School Band. The prize is a big box containing a feast of good things. The victors march up into the gymnasium and enjoy the feast which they have fought for and won." MAX BENNETT.

Now an Illinois cousin invites us to take a trip to Wisconsin to admire with her some of its beauties and curiosities. She says:

"Not many miles from Baraboo in Southern Wisconsin, lies a placid little lake of which we seldom read. Years ago, tradition relates, it was a favorite spot of a wandering tribe of Indians, but after the drowning of an Indian bride in its green



SNOW FORT AT THE "FARM SCHOOL."

and blue waters, something evil seemed attached to it, gaining it the title of the evil one and it has since been known as Devil's Lake.

"Enormous rocks of a reddish color, piled one over the other and reaching in places the dizzy height of hundreds of feet, encircle the tiny lake with the exception of one side, which is a pleasant valley dotted with beautiful forest trees.

"The formation of many of the rocks is remarkable for their almost exact likeness to living things; one in particular, 'The Elephant,' is so close an imitation of the great beast in its natural construction that one might say, all it lacked was life! The 'Devil's Doorway,' and 'Hells Gate' are among the many curious and well-named openings and caves around the lake. Ascent to these means a tiresome slipping from rock to rock, but the descent is perilous, for should you chance to lose control of a steady gait you may come down too fast for comfort. Nevertheless a grand view as well as the curiosities awaits one at the top; and gazing about one looks down on the beautiful dells of Baraboo and a good section of farming country. An overland route to Baraboo, the nearest town, is made by 'bus, and one may also take in the scenery of this beautifully situated town, as well as observe the grandeur of the distant cliffs."

CECILIA R. M. BLAKE, Woodstock, Ill.

I feel sure that the northern cousins will thank me if I keep you all still longer in a southern clime while we visit Mexico with a new cousin from Virginia. She says:

"Three years ago I visited Saltillo and Monterey, Mexico. We first went to Saltillo, a quaint old town famous as a summer resort. We stayed at Hotel Del La Plaza, so called because of a beautiful plaza opposite. The rooms, instead of being numbered as in our hotels, are named after some distinguished person or place. My room was Porfirio Diaz, for the President of Mexico. All the floors in the building are stone, both above and below. In the distance could be seen the famous battle-field of Buena Vista.

"While there, we visited the penitentiary and bought many articles such as baskets and Mexican purses made by the prisoners. Their work is very pretty and bright and requires much skill and patience. All except the very unruly prisoners are taught some trade. The prison band played several pieces of music which we thoroughly enjoyed. Mexican music is a mixture of the plaintive music of the Indian and the gay Spanish airs. Their national hymn, La Golondrina, would thrill any lover of music. We were taken into some of the cells, many of which are decorated with gay pictures. Men imprisoned for twenty years or more, occupy the first floor, those for fifteen the second floor, for ten the third floor and those for five, or under, the fourth.

"That night we went to Monterey, which is a beautiful city and greatly Americanized. West of the city is a peculiar mountain called 'La Silla,' because of its marked resemblance to the Mexican saddle. On Sunday morning we attended high mass and following the old saying 'In Rome do as the Romans do,' we attended a bull-fight in the afternoon. Although the favorite sport of the Mexicans I cannot say that I enjoyed it very much.

"Horse-cars run from the city to the Bishop's Palace, an historic old ruin, the scene of a battle between our troops and the Mexicans in 1847.

"Tuesday we spent at Topo Chico Hot Springs, two miles from the city. We walked up the mountain and down in an hour. Only cacti, laurel and the resurrection plant grow on it. The view from the top of the mountain is beautiful, the lovely valleys, gardens and hills, with streams of water winding in and out, make a charming picture. EVA DICKINSON, Castlewood, Va.

Now let us leave the snow and ice and wintry blasts of Boston Harbor for the warmth and sunshine of Georgia while we visit with our southern cousin beautiful Tallulah Falls. We shall find it a pleasant change.

"I have greatly enjoyed your letters in COMFORT and I would be pleased if you and your nieces and nephews will ramble with me a few moments among the mountains of upper Georgia.

"When you reach Tallulah, and catch your first glimpse of the grand chasm, through which a wild mountain stream noisily tumbles over successive piles of rock, the senses are intoxicated with the rugged beauty, the sublimity and the fascination of the scene. Here among the shadows of the eternal hills you may look down from the rustic seat of a vine-clad summer house upon a gorge much wider and more picturesque than Watkins Glen, and a thousand feet deeper than Niagara, intersected by roaring cataracts which break into numberless cascades before reaching the Tugaloo. This river, which was so named by the Indians, after



TALLULAH FALLS, GEORGIA.

spending its power on these wonderful falls quietly flows onward to mingle with the broad Savannah in its march to the sea.

"Armed with long walking canes we present quite an Alpine appearance as we carefully follow our guide over the winding mountain path. L' eau d'or (water of gold) is the first fall we reach, and as its musical waters come dashing downward we think of Southey's famous poem 'Lodore! Lodore!' The next fall is Tempestia, whose deep bass voice resembles that of the turbulent billows of the ocean. After listening to what its 'wild waves are saying,' we approach Old Hurricane, which is rushing down a pyramid of white rocks with a frightful velocity. When we reach Oceana, the lowest of the falls, no imagination can picture its grandeur. On our right is a wild shaded mountain, overhung with huge boulders of dark, moss-covered rocks, bending downward as if waiting for some fearful cyclone to hurl them into the depths below. On our left is a perpendicular height of solid rock painted by nature in different colors—red, blue, yellow and brown, fifteen hundred feet high, upon the summit of which is Point Inspiration. Look straight up and you will see a natural pulpit called 'The Devil's Pulpit,' but my heart rebelled at this sacrilege, so I call it 'The Holy of Holies.'

"Close your eyes one moment and listen to the voices of all those waters, each in a different key, and you cannot help hearing this grandest of all anthems, 'Who is the King of Glory?' Then all the mighty waters catch up the wondrous strain and together reply: 'The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory!' What a grand symphony in A minor! Reclining on this broad, flat stone, with Oceana at our feet, hemmed in from the outer world down in the canyon by two giant walls, where not a ray of sunshine penetrates, we may silently drink in the inexpressible beauty of the scene. Surely not in sunny Italy, or the far famed Vale of Chamouny can there be found a more impressive picture than this among the hills of beautiful Georgia, the Empire State of the South."

L. R. ROGERS, Barnesville, Ga.

And now, hoping you are all enjoying the pleasures as well as the stormy blasts of winter, I will say good-by for another month. AUNT MINERVA.

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Women in Public Service.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



PRESIDENT McKinley and the men who hold portfolios under him have appointed an unusual number of women to government places, and clerks of the gentler sex get much more consideration than they received from the last Administration, which openly exhibited a prejudice against them.

For thirty-seven years women have been employed in the public service at Washington, where there are now somewhat over 3000 of them in the executive departments. They have proved themselves a success, having made a record for reliability superior to that of the men, and it is for this quality that they have earned most praise. During the period mentioned there have been many defalcations by government clerks, but only one of these was attributable to a woman. Being occupied in the redemption division of the Treasury, she invented a most ingenious plan for making nine notes out of eight, incidentally to the work of putting together fragments of damaged money.

Up to the period of the Civil War no women were employed in the departments at Washington. The conflict with the South occasioned demand for great quantities of paper currency, and twenty men were engaged to do the work of cutting apart and trimming the notes. Gen. Spinner, at that time Treasurer of the United States, conceived the notion that women could do this sort of thing much faster. He had been in the banking business, and his daughter had clipped his notes for him with notable deftness. Accordingly, a single female clerk was introduced into the office experimentally, and she did the work of three men. That settled it, and presently the entire corps of clippers and trimmers was composed of women.

Next, the notion was conceived that women could do the work of counting the money with greater quickness, and an experiment showed that this was true. Accordingly, the men in the redemption division were replaced by women, and some of those originally employed are still occupied in the same task at the Treasury. The women are surprisingly reliable and accurate, almost never making a mistake. It would be impossible to put men in their places without great disadvantage to the work and a large increase of expense. One point made by Gen. Spinner in his argument in behalf of employing women was that they could be had for half the price of men; but since the adoption of civil service regulations they have received the same salaries as the male clerks of equal rank, and this rule has governed in all the departments. It is a fact that many women of superior abilities are glad to accept positions which could not be filled so satisfactorily at the same pay by men, for the reason that clever men can earn more money outside of the public service.

In the division of loans and currency of the Treasury Department all of the distinctive fiber paper used for money and for bonds is counted and examined, and the utmost care has to be taken to see that there are no flaws in it. This work is done by women, and the faithfulness with which it is performed is proved by the quantity of rejected sheets annually returned to the manufacturers. To the eye of any ordinary person these rejected sheets would seem to be of first-rate quality and finish. Even greater expertness is exhibited by the counters of mutilated money. All of these are women, because it has been found that they are more clever than men at such work. They must be absolutely accurate, accounting for every dollar, and much of the spoiled cash that comes into the Treasury for redemption is in such a condition as to require most delicate handling, having been chewed by goats, swallowed by puppies, eaten by babies, passed through the laundry, or partly burned by the fire. One of the ladies in the redemption division of the Treasury is the greatest living expert in identifying and "restoring" burned money, and another is more skillful at detecting counterfeits than any man in the government employ. She says that it is intuition with her.

The clerks at the Post Office Department who do "blind reading," which consists in deciphering illegible addresses, are women. They are far superior to men at such work, possibly for the reason that feminine intuition helps them. One of them is considered the foremost expert in her line in the world, and some of her decipherings are well-nigh miraculous.

Women of late have been making their way into the scientific branches of the government service. Two women ethnologists of very superior attainments and of recognized reputation are employed by the Bureau of Ethnology. The Smithsonian Institution has a woman expert in lobsters and crabs. In the National Museum is a woman who is an authority on mammals, and the most skillful entomological artist living is a woman employee of the bureau of entomology. Her reputation for accuracy in the drawing of bugs is unequaled. The Chief Librarian of the Bureau of Public Documents is a woman. Recently the Bureau of American Republics required a couple of translators in French and Spanish, and two mere girls won the prizes in competitive examinations. They are the highest-paid women in the government service, each of them receiving $2400 a year. A female expert in grasses was appointed a few months ago in the Department of Agriculture.

The Post Office Department employs a great army of women. Among these are 7670 female postmasters, and there are about 80,000 women to whom the oath of office has been administered to qualify them to assist in conducting the business of post offices. Women are employed in all branches of the postal service, except as letter-carriers, railway mail clerks, and inspectors. The same salaries are paid to them as to men for the same kind of work, running from $240 to $1900 per annum. Postmistresses sometimes receive much more than $1800. There is only one government office in Washington where no women are employed—the Army Medical Museum. The Indian Bureau furnishes good opportunities for women who are employed as cooks, laundresses, and seamstresses at Indian schools and agencies, getting from $400 to $500 per annum. They do no menial work, being required merely to teach the little Indians how to cook, sew, etc. Matrons at such schools and agencies receive $500 to $660. These are the only government offices accessible through marriage, the wife of a superintendent of a school or agency being always the preferred candidate for the place of matron.

The chiefs of the departments and bureaus are at full liberty to call upon the Civil Service Commission for male clerks if they prefer them, and the mere fact that so many women are appointed is proof that they are reliable and efficient. There are only two or three women in the Department of State, because that Department has always had a prejudice against them. A notion is entertained to the effect that they cannot be trusted with public secrets.

Naturally there are some officials who entertain views adverse to women clerks. They assert that women expect special favors and are less manageable than men; that they are disposed to appeal to the sympathy of their superiors in office, in order to obtain privileges and immunities; that they are apt to rely upon their fascinations rather than upon hard work; that they object to smoking; that the young ones are often vain and desirous of pleasing the young men with whom they are associated; that they cannot be used in emergencies; that they do not have the ambition to excel in their work that the average man has; and, finally, that while working for Uncle Sam, they are looking out all the time for the right man to come along and when they find him they quickly shake off the government harness and don the matrimonial.

That some of the allegations have a basis in fact, as applying to special cases, cannot be doubted, but they are certainly not just as referring to the generality of the women employees of the departments. Most of the officials in charge of government bureaus frankly acknowledge that, for certain classes of work particularly, women are far superior to men and more reliable. They are accurate and painstaking. As typewriters and stenographers they are particularly efficient. They pass the civil service examinations much higher than the men, their average of superiority being eight or ten per cent. One reason for this is that girls stay longer at school than boys do, as a rule, and are more mature in respect to book-learning when they come out. Their habits are good, and their work is not apt to be interfered with by any sort of indulgence. In offices devoted to accounting and filing, where memory and system go very far, they so admirable. As already hinted, they furnish more ability for the money. It is declared by Commissioner of Pensions Evans that some of the women in his employ are as competent as any men to pass on legal questions of the kind that come under the attention of his bureau.

In the old days of the spoils system a good many females of dubious character were employed in the departments, and, thanks to their "influence" were more sure of their places than the good women and received greater consideration. For them promotion was rapid, hours what they desired, and work light or none at all. Some of them never came to the office, but merely signed the pay-roll and drew their salaries. The Civil Service Law has changed all this, however, and at present the average of respectability among women government clerks is very high.

Bureau officials, in calling on the Civil Service Commission for clerks, are at liberty to fix the requirement as to sex, and this is why six men are appointed for every woman. To show how far prejudice goes in this matter, the case may be mentioned of Miss Staklnecker, who was appointed recently as a translator in the Department of State. She had previously applied for a place in the War Department, and had been rejected, after beating all her male rivals in a special competitive examination "out of sight." The requirements were extraordinarily exact, but, after answering every question correctly, the young lady was shut out because she could not with propriety climb ladders for books.

Our government is said to be the only business concern in existence that places women on the same plane with men in the matter of pay for work. Certainly Uncle Sam affords a commendable example in this regard; nevertheless it gives rise to no little grumbling outside of the ranks of the Federal civil service. In the big cities of this country there are plenty of educated and refined young women who are doing typewriting or other clerical labor for $7 or $8 weekly, toiling from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. to earn that modest stipend. Not unnaturally, they consider it an injustice that persons of their own sex, merely through the luck of getting places under the government, should be receiving from $1[illegible]0 to $1800 per annum—with one month of vacation each year and another month of sick leave—for doing the same sort of work, with much shorter hours. The everyday employee in commercial life cannot be persuaded to look upon this situation with complacency. When the last report on this subject was made by the Civil Service Commission, seven women employed by Uncle Sam in Washington were drawing $1800 a year, forty-six were getting $1600, ten were receiving $1500, two hundred and fifteen were absorbing $1400, and six hundred were pocketing checks amounting to from $1200 to $1300 annually.

BICYCLES AS BAGGAGE.

There has been a test case in the English courts on a question which is agitating cyclists all around the world, more or less. It was brought in the Queen's Bench division against the Great Northern Railway Company "on behalf of one Britten," seeking "to recover sixpence paid for the conveyance of a bicycle from King's Cross to East Finchley." And after hearing and argument the court decided that the plaintiff could not recover for the reason that "a bicycle cannot be ordinary luggage within the definition."

The special interest attaching to this case is found in the fact that the attorney for the plaintiff made his argument on the very lines on which similar claims are based in this country. He claimed that a bicycle came clearly within the definition of "personal luggage" for the reason that it was carried by the traveller for his own personal convenience and use in connection with his journey, and was an article such as was ordinarily carried for that purpose. But his Lordship, in rendering his decision, brushed away all such considerations by declaring that "the idea of luggage" must control; and as luggage implies something that is "packed," not taken "loose, like a bicycle," the wheelman lost his case.—*Boston Post.*

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Very gratefully yours,
MRS. MARY M. SWEET.

Seville, Ohio, Nov. 3, 1898.
W. H. MAY, M. D., New York City.
Dear Doctor:—My daughter suffered for some time with "Nervousness" and "Spells." Your medicine, "Epilepticide," acted like magic, and she has been completely relieved of all her symptoms. I want to express to you my gratitude for restoring my daughter to health.
Very respectfully,
MRS. JOHN W. LEE.

If you suffer from Epilepsy, Spasms or Spells, Fits, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus' Dance, etc., have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted my New Discovery, Epilepticide, will PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for FREE Bottle and try it. It has CURED thousands where everything else failed. My 90-page Illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Permanently Cured," FREE. When writing, please say you read this in COMFORT and give name, AGE, and full address. All Correspondence Professionally Confidential.

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$1.18 FARM BELL.
SEND US $1.18 and we will send you this 50 POUND BELL and if you do not find it the greatest value you ever saw, and equal to bells that retail as high as $5.00, we will return your $1.18. BELL is 17 inches in diameter, it is made of fine Osborn metal, full bronzed, loud, clear ring, fine tone, comes complete with all mountings and hangings to go on post. Write for Free Catalogue of Farm, Church, School and Factory Bells. Address,
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OUR $22.45 HARNESS is very strong and very heavy throughout, made from heaviest Dundee oak tanned leather, one of the best double team farm harness on the market. TRACES, 1½ inch, very heavy double and stitched, champion trace buckles. PADS, extra heavy, folded with 1¼ inch layer and fancy housings, heavy hook and terret. BRIDLES, heavy ¾ inch heavy, Concord harness leather winkers, round side checks and winker braces. HAMES, iron over top, combination loops. MARTINGALES, heavy 1¼ inch with ⅜ inch collar straps. BREAST STRAPS, extra heavy 1½ inch with snaps and breast strap slides. BELLY BANDS, extra heavy folded. BACK STRAPS, 1 inch with crupper to buckle. HIP STRAPS, 1 inch, sewed in carrier. TRIMMINGS, highest grade XC plate. (Price is without collars.) If you need a heavy double team harness don't fail to order this. We will save you $10 to $20. FOR TEAM HARNESS AT $12 and up write for our Free Harness and Buggy Catalogue. Address
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We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have [illegible] of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Our New Colonies and Interests.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

until it can be seen what it is best to do for the future of this beautiful island.

All lovers of good government will be pleased



HON. JOSEPH H. CHOATE.

to know that General Wood is to continue as military governor of Santiago. No person has done more to reconcile both the Spanish and Cuban people in that province to the conquest by the Americans; as few weeks as it is since the memorable fights around Santiago, and with all the sores of war still unhealed, General Wood has brought about a feeling, if not of entire friendship, one where there is no enmity or bad feeling; and his great success in municipal improvements, cleaning of the streets, regenerating of the wharves and docks, paving, and many other things, all of which have been done with such promptness, have been such an object lesson to the inhabitants that even at this early date few, if any, would be willing to return to Spanish rule; and the demonstrations that have taken place at banquets and other meetings show that General Wood has won his way into the hearts of these people, although representing a conquering army. His original appointment and its renewal bring great satisfaction, and have proven the wisdom of the administration in the selection.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's visit to Washington as a member of the Canadian treaty Commission is a matter of the highest importance. It will be remembered that a Commission representing both the United States and Canada has held sittings in Canada and our country and exhaustive testimony has been taken concerning matters of trade about which there has been more or less friction for years. Sir Wilfrid has consistently fought for more intimate trade relations for years and the present friendly disposition on both sides of the great lakes makes this an opportune time to construct a fair and equitable agreement. In the presence of President McKinley the other day Sir Wilfrid said that the British Empire and the United States are now united by the strongest bonds of brotherhood; and that henceforth the starry banner and the union jack will float side by side in defence of right and justice. There are so many conflicting interests to be thought of on both sides the line that the Commission's success can be but partial; but it has effectually cleared the ground for future understanding.

Just as the work of the Commission is to be made public the country is filled with pain to learn of the death of the American Commissioner Hon. Nelson Dingley of Maine. In his death the whole nation as well as his native State meet with a loss hardly to be recovered. No public man had so many heartfelt tributes paid to his memory as this plain unostentatious political student who has directed the Ways and Means Committee in Congress. His colleague, Congressman Burleigh of Maine sums up his character as follows:

"The death of Mr. Dingley is an irreparable loss, not only to his own State but to the whole country. He was a broad guaged statesman. No man in Congress approached him in range of accurate information upon the great public questions of the day. He was a clean, able, progressive man, a fine type of the true Christian gentleman. In my short service in Congress I have often been to him for counsel and advice and have been constantly indebted to him for many kindly acts. He was a man of untiring industry, with an almost phenomenal capacity for hard work and yet he was never too busy to maintain a thoughtful interest in those about him. It is not an easy matter to analyze a character like Mr. Dingley's. He was a many-sided man. The whole country feels a sense of his loss. To the members of his delegation his death comes with the force of a personal bereavement. The country does well to honor his memory, for in his death it has lost an eminent public man, a true patriot who commanded in a marked degree the sincere respect of his countrymen, irrespective of party affiliations, and whose untimely death in the very meridian of his powers will be universally mourned."

The condition in the far east remains practically unchanged. Aguinaldo still threatens, should not full independence be given the Filipinos, who at the present time are certainly unfitted for self-government. An expedition was sent from Manila to take possession of Iloilo, the second port of the islands, but the Spanish general surrendered a day before the arrival of the Americans. The insurgents at this writing have possession of the city and threaten its destruction by fire, for which the buildings have been prepared by "kerosening," should the American force land. Meantime Aguinaldo puts out proclamations most hostile to the Americans and is evidently preparing for resistance. In many quarters it is believed that Germany is interfering and plotting against us, but this is most indignantly denied by all German authorities.

The course of anti-expansionists in Congress naturally gives these insurgents great hopes. Instead of assisting President McKinley and promptly aiding him in his endeavors to do what is best for the advancement and civilization of these heathen people, a few senators are opposing every movement. It is easily understood that the Philippines came to us by the chance of war and that their conquest was unlooked for; but now they are in our hands we must hold them at least until such time as they are capable of self-government. They cannot be given back to Spain, we cannot allow European countries to divide them, the natives are uncapable of proper self-government. The only thing left is to have firmness enough to hold them until they can be released with safety. Although these "antis" are opposed to the administration, they offer no remedy for the state the islands would be left in were the present policy given up. It is always easier to be a destructive statesman than a constructive one; easier to pick to pieces and tear down, than to create and build. Numerous canvasses of leading papers and representative bodies of men show that the people are overwhelmingly in favor both of colonial expansion and giving the administration a free hand to work out the destiny of these people unhampered by unmeaning criticism.

The promotion of Ambassador Hay to be Secretary of State left the ambassadorship to Great Britain vacant and many prominent men have been named for the position. The President has appointed Hon. Joseph H. Choate of New York to fill this position. Mr. Choate has been the most prominent member of the New York bar for years and is a highly-cultured orator. He was very warmly supported for the Senate and would have made a formidable rival to Chauncey M. Depew, upon whom the choice has fallen, had he not been selected for foreign service. Mr. Choate will maintain the high standard that has been set by the previous Ambassadors at the Court of St. James, a record which should cause every American a feeling of pride and pleasure.

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Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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If you suffer from any chronic kidney or bladder disease, Bright's disease, diabetes, dropsy, inflammation of the membranes, stricture, urethral inflammation, rheumatism, torpid liver, and in fact any disease occasioned by disorders of these important organs, and will send me your address at once, I will mail you absolutely FREE OF CHARGE a package of Dr. Boles' Specific, which is a standard medicine and sovereign cure for these diseases in every form and phase.



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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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send for new information how to remove it easily and effectually without chemicals or instruments. Correspondence confidential in plain sealed envelope

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[We recommend above Company as thoroughly reliable.—Editor.

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THIS STOVE IS MADE FOR US UNDER CONTRACT by 25 practical stove makers who recently joined together and opened a foundry, **we taking every stove they make.** Every man working on these stoves is a high-class mechanic, interested in the foundry and the work, and, as a result, turns out the **best made, handsomest finished and most durable range on the market. FOR SPOT CASH** we take every stove these 25 men make, we get them at the lowest price ever known for such a stove, **$18.95 PRICE** is actual cost to us, without **AND OUR** our one small profit added.

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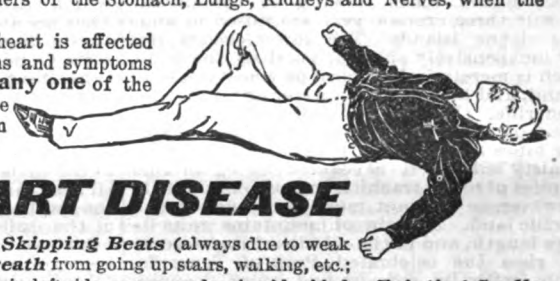


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Our price by mail or express, charges fully paid to your post-office, is only $1.89. Only think of it! A Bible, 12x9 inches, weighing more than four pounds, for $1.89! In addition to the Bible we will give a year's subscription to this paper; or raise a club of eight subscribers at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, or a club of 16 at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, and we will send it free as a premium. Address **GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.**

THE CANARY ISLANDS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE Canaries lie in the Atlantic Ocean, just off the west coast of Africa, in latitude 28 deg. north. They consist of seven islands, all of which are of volcanic origin, and all show large areas of bare, volcanic rock. Each island, however, has its peculiar characteristics of relief, soil, and climate, and the traveler is never wearied by monotony. There is ever something new to attract, something strange to amuse the foreigner upon these shores.

The climate at the sea-level is delightful, being very mild and equable, the temperature averaging sixty-four degrees Fahrenheit the year round. Even the nights vary little from the day in warmth, and a sheet is the only covering ordinarily required on the beds.

The derivation of the original people of these islands, the Guanches, is unknown, although they are supposed to have wandered here from the north of Africa. These Guanches were conquered by the Spaniards in 1493. Many of them were slain, others sold into captivity, and the remainder intermarried with their conquerors, and so gradually lost their identity. The present race of natives resemble their Spanish ancestor in form and feature, and speak the Spanish language, but they are darker skinned, and far more sweet and gentle in dispositon.

The war in Cuba was deeply felt in this far-away province, as the people of the Canaries were heavily over-taxed to obtain the means to carry it on. Large demands, too, were made on the men for soldiers, and so great is the scarcity of money that even the wealthiest Canarinas found it difficult to raise the five hundred dollars necessary to free their sons from this duty. This is the more unfortunate as the quiet, country lives and the gentle dispositions of these people totally unfit them for war and fighting.

The vegetation of the islands is arranged, as it were, in zones, according to the height above the sea. The lowest zone produces the date palm, the sugar cane and other tropical plants; higher up flourish the grape vine, olive and maize; while the highest summits are barren naked rocks. Owing to the climate and soil three crops a year are raised in some parts of the islands. The lower classes live very inexpensively on fish, potatoes and *gofio*, which is merely Indian corn or wheat roasted, ground, and kneaded with water or milk.

Teneriffe, the largest and most thickly settled of these islands, is of irregular shape, sixty miles in length, with an extreme breadth of thirty miles. It is covered by mountains and piles of rock—trachite, greenstone and tufa—however, so that not more than one seventh is fertile land. A chain of mountains runs its entire length, and in the middle of its broadest part rises the celebrated Peak of Teneriffe, which, with its support and spire, occupies nearly two thirds of the whole island. The Peak has a double top. The highest point, El Piton, is twelve thousand two hundred feet above the level of the sea. The other, Chahorra, connected with the first by a short, narrow ridge, has a height of nine thousand eight hundred and eighty feet, and both are orifices in the same mountain of trachyte. Neither reaches the line of perpetual snow, although snow lies upon them four months of the year. There is, however, upon El Piton, an immense cavern, eleven thousand feet above the sea, where snow lies continually.

The Peak is surrounded by a mountain wall, six thousand feet above the sea, which forms the rim of an ancient crater within which the present cone was built up from ashes, pumice stone and lava thrown up by eruptions. Both El Piton and Chahorra have craters from which issue steam and a little sulphurous vapor, but there are no accounts in history of eruptions from either crater of the Peak, although at various times lava in great quantities has issued from vents in its sides.

The ascent of the Peak is made from Oratava, a large town on the northern side of the island. From twenty to twenty-four hours are occupied in the ascent. The town of Oratava is situated in the most beautiful part of the



DRAGON TREE—TENERIFFE.

island, about a thousand feet above the sea. The houses are solidly built, water flows through every street, but the place has a deserted look. A fine, hard, broad road, macadamized in the most approved fashion, connects it with Santa Cruz de Santiago on the southern side of the island. This road is about twenty-six miles long, and so great was the expense of building it that it is popularly said to be paved with gold.

Santa Cruz is the present capital of the islands, and the residence of the Governor-general, who is also the civil lieutenant-governor of the Teneriffe district and the military governor of this island. It is a well-built and fairly clean town of ten thousand inhabitants, lying in a beautiful little fertile plain surrounded by bare and rugged rocks among which scarcely any vegetation is to be seen except thorny cacti and euphorbia, which latter gives a peculiar red tinge to the rocks upon which it flourishes. Inside the city boundaries the streets are paved with cobble-stones, very rough and uneven; the streets are narrow, too, and their gutters run directly in the middle, and not at the sides, as with us; these gutters are, however, very shallow, and the donkeys and mules, which are the principal beasts of burden, do not seem to mind them in the least. Horses are only used for coaches and cabs.

The houses in the cities, both on this island and Grand Canary, are built of white plaster, with flat roofs which are surrounded by a wall to protect those who walk and sit upon them. In the country, however, the old style of peaked roofs covered with red tiles still prevails. The city houses are generally low, with the second story overhanging the first, and adorned with balconies. There balconies are the favorite resort of lovers. Here sits the lady, while her adorer, in the street below, stands gazing at her, sometimes for hours; she, meantime, encouraging him by coy, amorous glances and witching smiles.

The climate is dry and warm, and rain falls, on an average, only about thirty-six days of the year. Much ground in the neighborhood is planted with the prickly pear for the cultivation of the cochineal insect.

Laguna, on the road to Oratava, is on much higher ground than Santa Cruz, and the summers are cooler, making it a popular summer resort for the wealthy residents of the latter place. Its winters are cold and damp, and a great quantity of rain falls, the plain being often flooded by it. The cause of this excessive rainfall is the meeting here of three aerial currents from the north, east and south-west. Owing to the extreme humidity of the air the walls and houses are covered by a thick growth of sempervirum.

Grand Canary is the most fertile island of the group. It is nearly circular in shape, and has a diameter of twenty-four miles. Its interior is simply a mass of mountains radiating to the shore, its highest peak being sixty-four hundred feet above sea level. There is plenty of water and several mineral springs on the island, but very little ground is under cultivation. Las Palmas, its largest town, and formerly the capital of the islands, is on the northern coast. It is a well-built and clean town, and abounds, as its name implies, with palm trees. Its climate is more humid than that of Santa Cruz. The Port is three miles from the city, and is reached by a steam tram, which is the nearest approach to a railroad to be seen on the islands. A fine mole extends out into the harbor for convenience in loading and unloading vessels.

The dress of the peasants of Grand Canary consists of a blouse and divided skirt, both of white cotton, no stockings, and clumsy shoes. The shepherds wear, besides their ordinary dress, a large blanket shirred around the neck.

On the islands of both Teneriffe and Grand Canary are the celebrated cave dwellings. These are simply holes in the soft volcanic rock which have been enlarged and made habitable. They are about as large as ordinary rooms, and have a door but no window. Adjacent caves serve to house the animals of the family. The inhabitants of these caves are said to be the worst of thieves, the greatest of liars and the dirtiest of mortals; but there are gradations of vice everywhere, and not all the dwellers are superlative thieves or liars. Those living near to the town of Las Palmas may perhaps merit all that can be said of them in this respect, but the dwellers in Artenaria are industrious tillers of the soil—respectable, and quite as good,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21.)

Ladies' A $1. BOX Free!

To show how quickly it will cure every form of female weakness, displacements, leucorrhœa, suppressed or painful periods, etc. For a short time to introduce it the Hazeline Co., 331 Bressler Block, South Bend, Ind., will send a $1.00 box free by mail to every lady sending her name and address. It gives instant relief and never fails to cure. Write today and give it a trial. It costs you nothing.

$70 Each Month and expenses or commission to good agents for tacking up signs & introducing our wonder working rings. Write for particulars. ELECTROPATHIC CO., Buffalo, N. Y.

LADIES Why not make $5 daily selling our ladies' specialties? Circulars and Catalogue free. E. J. West Mfg. Co., 231 Jackson St., Chicago.

WANTED GOOD, HONEST FARMERS not afraid to work, to sell our Graded Nursery Stock. Salary and expenses paid a steady man. FLEMER & FELMLY, Springfield, N. J.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

GIVES STRENGTH AND VIGOR.



30 Days' Trial

The marvelous power exerted by my Electric Belt and Appliances, induces me to offer it to suffering men on 30 Days' Trial, so certain am I that it will cure and that you will gladly pay for the use of it. To men who have battered their stomachs with drugs I want them to exercise their judgement and consider that Electricity is the greatest power on earth. Its unseen current puts life and force into whatever it touches. The constant, steady life extended by my New Electric Appliances gives instant relief and never fails to cure Rheumatism, Backache, Kidney Troubles, Early Decay, Night Losses, Lack of Nerve Force and Vigor, Nervous Debility, Undevelopement and Lost Vitality. You may not have faith in it now, but

WEAR IT FOR 30 DAYS

and you will then realize why I have such confidence in it as to send it to you ON TRIAL. Write to-day for Illustrated Pamphlet with references and signed testimonials. Sent free in plain sealed envelope.

PROF. A. CHRYSTAL, Inventor,
303 Postoffice Block, Marshall, Mich.

Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than $5 every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a $30,000 stock. You will have no competition.

RIO, WIS., June 20th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than $80.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as $350.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.

Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 2c stamp for reply.
We have hundreds of letters similar to Mr. Doyle's.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to $5.00 and upward; Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. We show a large line of suits at from $5.00 to $8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloonings, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Net Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $1.00 to

$5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK from us of AT LEAST $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

..... Sign your name on above line.

..... Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age .....

Married or single .....

..... On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

..... On above line give name of your nearest express office.

Address your letters plainly to
AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY WORK.

A big package of beautiful Silk Remnants, from 120 to 150 pieces, all carefully trimmed, prepared from a large accumulation of silks especially adapted for all kinds of fancy work. We give more than double any other offer, and the remnants are all large sizes, in most beautiful colors and designs. With each assortment is four skeins of the very best embroidery silk, assorted colors. Send 25 cents in silver or stamps to Paris Silk Agency, Box 3045, N. Y. City, N. Y.

This concern is reliable and the package of astonishing value.—*Editor.*

MONEY MAKER MERRY GO ROUNDS. Norman & Evans, Lockport, N. Y.

600 SECOND HAND BICYCLES $5 TO $15. Bargain list free. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago.

PATENT secured or money all returned. Search free. Collamer & Co. 123 E st., Wash. D. C.

LADIES wanted everywhere to mail circulars, samples and copy letters at home. Reply with stamped envelope. PEERLESS COMPANY, South Bend, Indiana.

SILK DRESS FREE A reliable firm of publishers of an old established illustrated & highly interesting story & sketch paper to advertise it are offering for annual subscriptions, handsome silk dresses full 10 to 15 yds. This offer is open to any reliable person who will send for it at once & promise to show it with the paper. If you wish to take advantage of above silk dress offer you must first send 10 cts. silver or stamps to pay for handling & postage on the paper we send three months on trial & you will receive it by return mail. Address HOUSE & HOME PUBLISHING CO., N. Y. City, P. O. Box 2252. We can show proof for thousands of dresses given away to those who have answered our advertisement. All dresses sent promptly.

MAGIC SPECTACLES



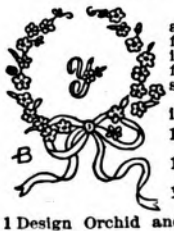
Are the latest thing out for fun or use. These wonderful eye protectors are gotten up in such a strong manner that they will be found very useful to protect the eyes from the sun or from dirt or any substance that is liable to fly into or strike the eye. There is no glass to break but they are so constructed that you look through them same as through the lens of a camera. The frames are very strongly made of heavy wire and the artistically colored revolving eyes can be made to turn in every conceivable direction, so that the most grotesque and comic expression can be made with them when on the face. By simply turning to right or left, or sideways, the cross-eyed dandy or cute clown can be instantly imitated and bushels of fun be had. Or, as will be seen by the reverse side of the rubber hung centers, they are plain, useful, every day spectacles. They are having a great sale. Will send a pair free with a 6c. three months' subscription to "NATIONAL FARMER." Agents make money with them. Ask for terms when you send for trial pair.



NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

AN OFFER TO EVERY LADY. If you will send us only 25 cents we will send you one Outfit all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid. Address COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN South Boston, connected with the Perkins Institution for the Blind, is a library which differs from any other collection of books in the city, and probably furnishes far more of enjoyment, happiness, and real helpfulness than even the Boston Public Library. This is the Library for the Blind, the volumes of which have been selected with the greatest care to both fill the needs and satisfy the cravings of those for whom they are designed. It is shelved in a long, narrow room, the many windows of which admit floods of air and sunshine. Sunshine—you say—of what use is sunshine to those who cannot see it? Ah! but they can feel it if they cannot see it, and they can feel the effects of the warm, health-giving rays. Most blind people can tell, as quickly as you or I, whether they are in sunlight or shadow, the presence or absence of which affects their sensitive natures very quickly.

The number of books in this library is eleven thousand. Of these, six hundred are in the raised type of the blind, three thousand in ordinary type, while all the rest are duplicates of the first six hundred. They are all in handsome glass cases, and the librarian gives them out to the students at their request, or advises them and furnishes books if the readers desire as she sees the need of her services in this way, for she is interested in and for every one of the young people who use her library. Big books they are; not such, in their size, as you would choose for reading while easy chair or lounge rests your tired body. Blind people know nothing of the luxury of a lazy loll while reading. Books fourteen inches in length by twelve in width, and four and one-half inches in thickness, do not allow their readers to recline while using them, especially as both hands must be employed in mastering their contents. But, as the greater number of blind people have no conception of the convenience of a small, easily handled book, they do not find the large ones wearisome.

The line type as it is called, is used for the greater number of these books. It has the raised letters, embossed on beautiful, thick, white paper, and is very easily read by the sensitive finger-tips of the blind. The printing is, of course, only on one side of the paper.

The books are very carefully selected, and only the best of English and American literature has been prepared for the use of the blind child. Trashy and sensational stories find no place in this library. One of the greatest favorites with young people here is Black Beauty, while Charles Dickens and his many characters are familiar friends. David Copperfield, Paul Dombey, Sam Weller, Little Em'ly, Dick Swiveller, Peggotty, Smike, and hosts of others of Dickens' people hold daily converse here, and have many admirers among the frequenters of this library.

The Holy Bible, which we see people read in the form of one little five by seven inch volume, is here shown in eight large books, each fourteen by twelve inches in size, and the entire Bible occupies four feet of shelf room.

There are to be found here, besides the best of novels and juvenile books, volumes of history, biography, poetry, and books in Greek, Latin and German. In this library, too, are many cases filled with stuffed birds and animals which are used in studying natural history, and it is a most interesting sight to watch the children, each with some specimen on the table before him, carefully studying its size, its shape, its covering and its various characteristics, all done with those slender, delicate, sensitive finger-tips which serve them instead of eyes. The earnest, thoughtful, absorbed faces bent above the specimens show the deep interest of the children in the subject before them, and it is safe to assert that not one of them will ever lose the knowledge thus gained.



BLIND GIRL READING.

Schoolbooks are not included in this library. Their place is in the schoolroom, where these little ones with darkened sight learn to open wide the eyes of their minds and take in the knowledge which shall transform their lives.

Besides the line type books there are some volumes printed in what is known as the Braille System. This type seems to the uninitiated as intricate and puzzling as is stenographical writing to those unacquainted with its mysteries, and perhaps it is so; but to one who has mastered its peculiarities it is of the greatest use and value. It is, indeed, a veritable shorthand to the blind, by which they are enabled to take notes, keep accounts, write, and read when written, their own letters; and, in short, places the blind, to a marvelous degree, in touch with the outside world. I have, myself, seen one of these people engaged in managing a variety store, selling the goods, waiting on customers, taking orders for goods, writing business letters, and keeping his own accounts; and all with the aid of the Braille system.

This machine somewhat resembles, in its form, management and general design, a small typewriter. The Braille System is made up of six little raised dots, from which, in different numbers, arrangements and combinations are made letters, words and signs. It is a most ingenious invention, and of the utmost possible use to those for whom it is intended. All their music is written in this type, and it is simply wonderful to watch the facility with which it is read and rendered from these notes.

In another wing of the same building in which the library is situated is the printing office, where all the work for the library is done, and where the textbooks for the pupils are made. The manager of this is a blind man, although the compositors are, of course, seeing men; and a young lady with perfect sight is also in attendance to help out the blind workers, and wait upon visitors.

Many improvements are being made in these helps for the blind, and well it is that this is so, for the utmost that we can do to ameliorate the condition of our sightless brothers and sisters is but small indeed in comparison with the loss of so great a boon as one's eyes.

THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.

Cost in single copies at least 40 cents each; but we have a book of one hundred and fifty-six popular songs sentimental, pathetic and comic with words and music complete which we will send to any friend who will send six cents to pay mailing expenses and our illustrated catalogue of latest bargains.

S. W. LANE, & Co., Augusta, Maine.

$4.95 buys an All Wool Suit

of Mail's Best Blue Serge

famous everywhere for its perfect weave and rich, dark blue color It's medium weight—suitable for year around wear—and will positively not fade.



EXPERT SUIT TAILORS will make the suit in latest sack style to fit perfect, line it with fine, heavy farmer satin, pipe it with real satin and sew it with pure-silk & linen thread. In quality, style and looks it **will equal the $10.00 suit sold by others. We sell 1800** suits at $4.95 for advertising purposes—**no more** at **$4.95 when 1800 are sold.** Order quick before they're gone. Don't miss this wonder chance.

SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. with height, weight, chest, waist and crotch measure. We'll express the suit C. O. D. and **allow you to examine and try it on before you pay one cent.** If just as represented and wonderful value, pay the express agent $4.95 and expressage and take the suit. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory. We make other suits from $5.95 to $13.95. **Write for free samples of cloth.**

THE LOUIS R. VEHON CO. 155 W. Jackson St. Chicago



FREE **Gold Plated Watches, Rings &c**

As a Grand Premium any one can earn this **Beautiful Gold Plated, Hunting Case, Stem Winding Watch, Chain and Charm,** a perfect timekeeper, by selling INDESTRUCTIBLE ELECTRIC SAFETY LAMP WICKS. Can be sold in 2 hours. No trimming, no smoke, no smell. **90-DAY SPECIAL PREMIUMS:** Send us your name and address (no money) and we send you 2 dozen wicks. You sell them at 25c each, remit us the $1.20, and we mail you **FREE,** a BEAUTIFUL GOLD PLATED WATCH CHAIN AND A CHARM, also a Handsome GOLD shell ring Write to-day.

PERFECT WICK COMPANY, Box 191 Roselle, N. J.

Agents, Perfumes etc. on credit. Big Profit. Express Pd. Terms free. Herbene Co., Box 4, Station L, New York.

U. S. A. MONEY. Genuine stamp send 10c. for price list. Address BOX 275, Edgar, Nebr.

"**Write** to the Sawyer Crystal Blue Co., 27 Broad Street, Boston, Mass., and learn how you can get a watch free."

FILL Your own TEETH Dr. Truman's Crystaline Stops Pain and Decay. Lasts a lifetime. Circulars FREE. E. U. TRUMAN, Bainbridge, N. Y.

$3 PAID per 1000 for distributing circulars. Enclose stamp. STAR OINTMENT CO., Tyrone, Pa.

CATALOGUE Watches and Telescopes FREE. EXCELSIOR IMPORTING Co., 111 Nassau St., New York.

SEEDS 21 pkts. flower seeds post paid 10 cts. G. HOYT, New Hope, N. Y.

$8 PAID Per 100 for Distributing Sample of washing fluid. Send 6c stmp. A. W. Scott, Cohoes, NY

WED 5,000 want to marry; many rich. Lists and pictures, free. Walter McDonnell, C 5, Chicago, Ill. **WISELY**

$5.00 CASH per 1000 paid to Distribute Circulars. Enclose 4 stamps. World Adv. Assc'n, Chicago.

Sugar 2 C. lb. pkgs. Coffee 10c, bar Soap 1c. 20 Envelopes 1c. Silk Ties 8c. Knee-pants 12c. Caps 8c. Shoes 32c. Boys' Suits 70c. All goods 1-3 value. Bargain list free. DOUGLAS & DE GARMO. WONEWOC, WIS.

WRITERS WANTED to do copying at home. Law College, Lima, Ohio.

BEST PAYING THING for Agents is our PHOTO FAMILY RECORDS, OTHER PICTURES, PORTRAITS & FRAMES. Address Dept. Z **O. P. CORY & CO. 41 & 45 Jefferson St., Chicago.**

Shinette Shoe Dressing, black and russet. Great sellers. Big Profits. Agents wanted everywhere, full size sample 10c. H. F. Reinhard & Co., 91 Bedford St., Boston.

SILK FOR CRAZY WORK Fifteen yards in yard lengths, all of different colors, will be sent to your address postpaid, on receiving 10 cents. **STAR SILK CO.,** Dept. 40 Box 128, Bloomfield, N. J.



COMBINATION DIPPER. Seven useful articles in one. Samples **FREE,** prepaid, to **AGENTS.** Other articles new and catchy. Write, postal will do. **RUNDELL MFY., CORNING, N. Y.**

FREE Our Magnificent Catalogue No. 70, of **Ladies' Outer Garments.** Edward B. Grossman & Co., 170-172 State St., Chicago.

ANNIVERSARY RING.

1899 SOUVENIR.



$1 Solid Silver **Ring for 10 Cts.**

This **ANNIVERSARY** and **SOUVENIR RING** of **1899** we warrant **925-1000** solid sterling silver worth one dollar each. To introduce our great new 1899 illustrated catalogue of Jewelry and Novelties a, we will send one sample for **TEN Cents** in silver or postage stamps. Send piece of paper size of ring wanted. Address.

LYNN & CO., 48 Bond St., New York.

FREE



56 PIECES FULL-SIZE, For Families.

There is no fake about this; send your address at once. Every person answering this advertisement can get a Handsomely Decorated Set, **absolutely free**—we mean it. There is no trick, no juggling with words, nothing but what is honest. Our offer is in black & white, no misrepresentation of any sort; everybody can receive & take advantage of it, & we positively will not go back on it no matter what it costs us. We wish to put our paper on top, & will do anything to get it in the lead quickly. It is one of the best & most interesting Fashion, News & Story Papers in existence. You can prove all we say, the absolute **truth,** if you will send us **10c.** silver or **15c.** stamps to cover expense of postage, mailing, addressing & packing, & we will send you the paper for 3 months free. ☞ Every one can have their choice of Breakfast, Dinner or Tea Set Free. All Sets carefully boxed & packed at our expense. **POPULAR FASHIONS**

New York City, **DEPT. 1522, P. O. BOX 2617.**

SEND US ONE DOLLAR Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this NEW IMPROVED ROYAL GRAND 1899 MODEL HIGH-GRADE ORGAN, by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if you find it exactly as represented, one of the grandest instruments you ever saw, equal to any organ you can buy at home for **$100.00 to $150.00,** better tone, better finish, more durable and handsomer than any organ you ever saw advertised by any organ maker, pay your freight agent OUR SPECIAL 90-DAY OFFER PRICE, $46.85, less the $1.00, or $45.85 and freight charges.



THIS, OUR ROYAL GRAND ORGAN, is one of the largest, most elaborate, most durable, sweetest-toned instruments ever made, equal to organs that retail at $100.00 to $200.00. From the illustration shown, which is engraved direct from a photograph, you can form some idea of its beautiful appearance. Made from **solid quarter-sawed oak, antique finish, or black walnut,** as desired; elaborately carved and ornamented, hand rubbed, hand polished and decorated, latest 1899 truss frame, stands 7 feet high, 4 feet long and 2 feet wide and weighs 400 pounds. **MADE BY THE BEST ORGAN MAKER IN AMERICA,** has the genuine Skinner bellows of silk and rubber cloth, automatic air valve, Staylor pedal stops, Hazelton action—the finest known—simply super-excellent, producing perfectly the pipe organ and orchestral effects, perfect action, strong, difficult to displace. All metal parts are of finest tempered Straydon coppered and silvered steel wire.

THE ROYAL GRAND contains **5 octaves, 11 stops, 2 octave couplers, 2 knee swells, 4 sets of reeds as follows: 1 set round pipe-like Principal reeds of 24 notes, 1 set exquisitely pure, sweet Melodia reeds of 37 notes, 1 set rich, mellow, smooth Diapason reeds of 24 notes, 1 set charmingly brilliant Celeste reeds of 37 notes; 122 in all.**

OUR ROYAL GRAND ORGAN possesses the good qualities of every **high-grade organ made,** with the defects of none. **The highest grade work** possible to produce. **WE FURNISH FREE** with every **Royal Grand Organ a handsome organ stool,** and the best **organ instruction book published.**

GUARANTEED 25 YEARS. With every Royal Grand Organ we issue a written binding **25 years' guarantee.** By its terms and conditions if any part gives out we repair it free of charge. **TRY IT ONE MONTH,** and we **refund your money** if you are not perfectly satisfied. **500 of these organs will be sold for $46.85.** Order at once; do not delay for one day.

OUR RELIABILITY IS ESTABLISHED. If you have not dealt with us, ask your neighbor **about us;** write the publisher of this paper, or the Metropolitan National Bank, National Bank of the Republic or Bank of Commerce, Chicago, or German Exchange Bank, New York, or any railroad or express company in Chicago. **We have a capital of over $450,000.00,** occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago and employ over 800 people in our own building.

We SELL ORGANS AT $22.00 AND UP; PIANOS $125.00 AND UP; also everything in **musical instruments** at lowest wholesale prices. Write for free special organ, piano and musical instrument catalogue. Address **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.**



FREE YOU CAN EARN THESE PRESENTS also many others easily, by selling a few packets of our **Sachet Powder,** the strongest and most lasting Perfume known, at only 10 cents per packet, or you can make a large cash commission, **NO MONEY REQUIRED** until Perfume is sold. Send full address and we will send you 10 packets, postpaid; when sold send us the $1 and we will send you a present according to our Premium List, sent with Perfume) which shows over 100 valuable presents we offer Our Perfume sells at sight. All your friends will help you earn a present. NO RISK. WE TRUST YOU and take back what you can not sell. **H. L. WASHBURN MFG. CO., Dept C. F. 150 Nassau St., New York City.**



AGENTS wanted to sell **Our Pinless Clothes Line.**

A Perfect Line that requires no pins and will not break. Sold only to Agents. PINLESS CLOTHES LINE Co., 100 B Beacon St., Worcester, Mass. Sample mailed for 50c.

$4 A DAY writing at home. Guaranteed! Send 10c. for method. P. P. Cobb Co., R, Eliz. City, N. C.

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LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you $25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address with stamp. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

$140.00 A MONTH EASILY MADE selling men's suits, overcoats, boy's clothing, ladies' and men's mackintoshes for a house making 3,000 garments a day. **NO CAPITAL REQUIRED.** No experience necessary. **FREE** Outfit and Instructions furnished. If you want work and will work, send us your name, address and express office, but **NO MONEY,** and we will send by express our complete outfit including our mammoth sample book containing large cloth samples and confidential price list. If you find it the largest book and most complete outfit ever furnished with the best quality of goods at lowest prices, and are satisfied that you can make money working for us, then pay the express agent $1.00 and express charges. **WE** will refund the **$1.00** as soon as you have sold 5 men's suits. **THIS IS A GRAND CHANCE** to make $5.00 to $8.00 a Day. Don't overlook it but order the outfit to-day and begin to make money

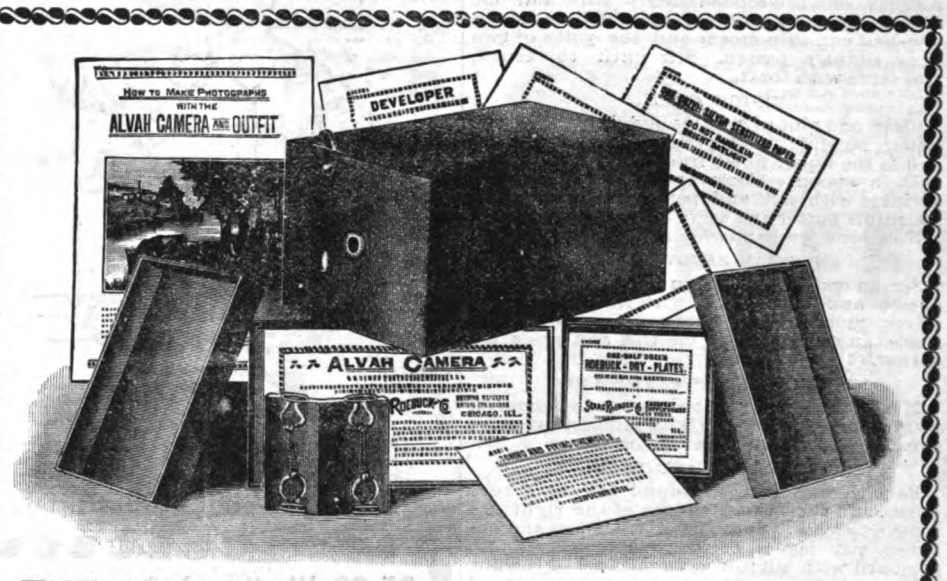
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YOU CAN EASILY GET THREE SUBSCRIBERS. In these hard times many would feel reluctant about paying 50 or 75 cents or $1.00 for a year's subscription to our paper, although there is no question that it is well worth that amount to anyone; but hardly any person will hesitate a moment over the trifling sum of **25 CENTS** when it will purchase **A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to so valuable and entertaining a paper as COMFORT.** At this very low price you need only to show a sample copy of our paper and you will secure three and even more subscribers right in your immediate neighborhood. **Every member of the family is interested in COMFORT.**

HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS WONDERFUL OFFER. We know that **COMFORT** is the **best paper of its kind published, and we want to introduce it into every household in the country.** We intend to more than double our subscription list in 1899 and take this unique and liberal method of doing it. **Everyone now a days is interested in photography.** Haven't you often wanted a camera to take the pictures of your friends and loved ones and the familiar scenes about the house? With the **ALVAH** you can do this, and we give you the opportunity of obtaining this up-to-date **CAMERA FREE OF CHARGE.** All you need to do is to send us three subscriptions to **COMFORT,** enclose the 75 cents payment for same and the **CAMERA AND OUTFIT will be sent to you prepaid.**

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ANYONE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER. If you are already a subscriber send us the 55 cents and we will extend your subscription one year from the date your present subscription expires, besides sending you the entire camera and outfit. **Address**

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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



IN the chafing dish we have a real friend which grows dearer to us as we realize how much may be done with it, and what an atmosphere of hospitality surrounds it, with the sound of something good bubbling and sizzling under its glistening cover. In the evening, what can exceed the coziness of a dining-room with half a dozen congenial spirits, all hovering around the table on which, in all its glory, stands the king of the feast, presided over by the Queen. And the use of it is not limited to the evening supper alone, but may be used at the breakfast table where the eggs may be cooked in any way desired, and so be served hot and done just to a turn; and at the lunch table where hot dishes may be daintily served from it, in place of the cold meats usually served.

Some of the recipes given this month for the chafing dish may be new to our readers; we hope so—but, in any case, they are tried and true, and will bear repeating.

OYSTER RAREBIT.

Clean, parboil and drain one cup of oysters, reserving the liquor. Remove and discard the tough muscle. Melt two tablespoons butter, add one-half pound mild cheese cut in small pieces, one-fourth teaspoon salt and a few grains cayenne. As the cheese melts, add gradually the oyster liquor and two eggs, slightly beaten. As soon as the mixture is smooth, add the soft part of the oysters.

GRILLED SARDINES.

Drain twelve sardines and cook in chafing dish until heated, turning frequently. Place on small pieces of dry toast, and serve with a slice of lemon.

ENGLISH MONKEY.

Soak one cup stale bread crumbs for fifteen minutes in one cup milk. Melt one tablespoon butter, add one-half cup mild cheese cut in small pieces, and when the cheese has melted add the soaked crumbs, one egg slightly beaten, one-half teaspoon salt and a little pepper. Cook three minutes and pour over toasted crackers.

LOBSTER A LA NEWBURG.

Cut two pounds of lobster meat in slices. Melt one-fourth cup butter, add the lobster and cook three minutes. Add one-half teaspoon salt, a little cayenne, a few gratings of nutmeg, one tablespoon sherry wine and one of brandy; cook one minute, and then add one-half cup thin cream and the yolks of two eggs, slightly beaten. Stir until thickened, and serve with toast.

UNION GRILL.

Clean one pint of oysters and drain off all the liquor possible. Put oysters in chafing dish, and as the liquor flows from oysters, remove it with a spoon. Cook oysters until plump, sprinkle with salt and pepper, add two tablespoonfuls butter and serve on crackers.

Now for a few sandwich recipes.

RUSSIAN SANDWICHES.

Spread crackers with thin slices of Neufchatel cheese and cover this with finely chopped olives, moistened with mayonnaise dressing. Place another cracker on this and press together.

NUT AND CHEESE SANDWICHES.

Mix equal parts of grated cheese and chopped walnut meat, and season with salt and cayenne; spread on bread cut in fancy shapes.

BROWN BREAD AND PEANUTS.

Bake the bread in one-pound baking powder boxes, and then the slices are of the right size for sandwiches. Spread and cut slices and between put layers of finely chopped peanuts seasoned with salt; or use a mixture of the nut meat and cheese, grated. Or, flake a cup of cold boiled salmon and mix it to a paste with one tablespoon mayonnaise dressing; spread on one slice, and press another slice onto it.

FIG SANDWICHES.

Use the ripe figs that come in cans. Drain them from the syrup, and then mash them to a paste, and spread over the buttered side of a slice of bread; lay another slice on top, press together and then trim off the crusts, and, if the slices are large, cut into triangles or squares, or into oblong pieces.

DATES AND NUTS.

Remove stones and break up dates with a fork; take half as much in bulk of pecans chopped finely and mix with the dates, moistening with creamed butter. Add a little salt and spread between thin slices of bread.

The presence of the children at the table with the grown up members of the family is not always desirable—and when there is a nurse, attendant or governess who has charge of the children, there should be a separate room and table for them—for the reason, principally that the proper food for children is not, usually, that which is eaten by the father and mother, and also because the older people are apt to eat hastily, and naturally the children will acquire the same habit—will take too large mouthfuls and swallow them when not properly masticated. One result will be illness—and another will be the acquisition of an undesirable habit which it will be hard to break up.

Children are inclined to eat too fast, and require careful and constant watching to avoid this. Either let the children be served *first*, and the mother carefully watch and help them and then removed from the dining-room, or else have someone in attendance in an entirely separate room, who will give them her undivided attention.

Bread and milk tables are among the new furnishings for the nursery. They come in oak, and consist of a child's low table with two seats on opposite sides, and the seats and table are fastened together at the bottom by a rail. This arrangement prevents the spilling of the milk into the children's laps—as the chairs bring the child close up to the table.

HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8 cents. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRENE DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Prince Maximillian of Saxony, who became a priest a few years ago, has been appointed Bishop of Kulm in West Prussia.

Lazy Liver

"I have been troubled a great deal with a torpid liver, which produces constipation. I found CASCARETS to be all you claim for them and secured such relief the first trial, that I purchased another supply and was completely cured. I shall only be too glad to recommend Cascarets whenever the opportunity is presented." J. A. SMITH.
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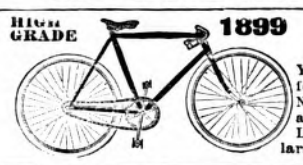
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NO-TO-BAC Sold and guaranteed by all druggists to CURE Tobacco Habit.

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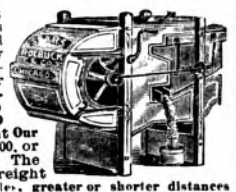


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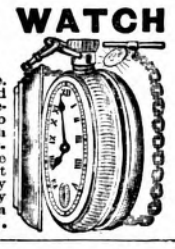
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SEND ONE DOLLAR Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this **Fanning Mill** by freight, C.O.D. subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and **equal to Fanning Mills that retail at $20.00 to $25.00**, pay the freight agent **Our Special Price, $9.90**, less the $1.00, or **$8.90** and freight charges. The mill weighs 120 pounds, and the freight will be about **70 cents for 500 miles, greater or shorter distances in proportion. EVERY MILL IS COVERED BY A BINDING GUARANTEE:** more wind, more shake, carries more screen and will do more and better work than any mill you can buy for $20.00. **Will separate wild seed from wheat in one operation, will separate the foul seeds,** such as mustard, pigeon grass, etc., from flax on once going through the mill. **It is a perfect cleaner of clover and timothy. Made** of the very best material. We furnish with it one wire wheat hurdle, three sieves, wheat screens, wheat grader, corn and oat sieve and barley sieve. **Capacity, 90 bushels per hour. $9.90 is our special offer price. Order at once. Write for free Agricultural Implement Catalogue.**



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WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



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I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say $25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

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We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address, G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

$3 a Day Sure

Send us your address and we will show you how to make $3 a day absolutely sure; we furnish the work and teach you free; you work in the locality where you live. Send us your address and we will explain the business fully; remember we guarantee a clear profit of $3 for every day's work; absolutely sure; write at once. **ROYAL MFG. CO., Box 613, Detroit, Mich.**

PRIZES FOR BRIGHT PEOPLE.



The picture at the left represents one of the Naval Heroes in the **Battle of Santiago.** The Hero has many friends and more admirers, and if you study the picture carefully the faces of many of them can be found. See if you can name the Hero and find his friends. Find as many as you can, and mark them by tracing with pen or pencil the outline of each face, or some mark that will make your answer plain and neat. Cut out the picture and mail with your full name and address to the Problem Department of THE CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST.

SEND NO MONEY

Do not enclose any money with your answer, but mail at once. If four or more are marked correctly, you will be **entitled to a Prize,** as hereinafter set forth. To the person or persons finding and marking correctly all the faces hidden in the picture, we will give

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To the nearest correct, we will give $25.00; to the second nearest correct, a **Gold Watch**; to the third nearest correct, a **Sewing Machine, and to all others who have found and marked correctly at least four faces we will give a handsome Prize,** as hereinafter set forth. If two or more are tied for any of the large prizes, the prize, or its equivalent in cash, will be divided equally. Make your answer neat and plain, and be sure to give your full and correct address. **To give assurance to those living at a distance that the contest will be fair and impartial, we will not allow anyone living in Chicago or its suburbs to take part in it.** As our object in offering all these prizes is to call special attention to and advertise our 20-page Family Magazine and Story Paper, those who win prizes will be required to get five of their friends to subscribe. Try it and see if you are one of the "Bright People." **You may win the $100.** When answering, be sure and say whether you are at present a subscriber or not. Answer to-day. Address

Number faces found.....

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$5.00 Worth of Dressmaking Models FREE.

I am introducing an entirely new system of Model Dressmaking and will send any lady interested a complete set of models free together with full instructions in the new art. With the simple A B C directions which I send any girl or woman can for nothing learn to cut, fit and make garments with these models in a few minutes and hours what would take weeks and months, and money to accomplish by any other method. This instructor on the Model plan is the latest, most simple and most reliable tailor system of dress cutting ever invented. **Only Three Measurements required.** Anyone can make them **without misfits or mistakes of any kind. No time or materials wasted. No worry, no expense, no disappointments.** A bad fit impossible. A perfect fit guaranteed even to a round-shouldered, hollow-chested, large-hipped unfortunate. **In fact, it fits any figure. Thoroughly up-to-date** in every way. **Even if you have never made a garment** you can follow any fashion plate you fancy and have the finest fitted dress, which your friends will declare was made by the most stylish experienced dressmaker if you use these models. If you are already a dressmaker and have a dozen other systems on hand don't fail to send for this Easy Model Method System. It will save experienced persons much time and money as well as beginners. This system offers young people a great opportunity for money making. Send at once for the System and get our wonderful terms. It costs you nothing to get it and you can return it without any extra expense after looking it over fifteen minutes if you do not care to enter our money-making plan.



BIG FREE OFFER.

These models are gotten up to sell for $5.00 per set, but in order to introduce them quickly we will send one set of models to you free, all charges paid, so it won't cost you a cent to examine into the plan. The first idea was to send the models on receipt of one dollar, but many do not like to risk even one dollar without seeing the article even if sure of getting $5.00 worth—so it was decided to trust to the honesty of the sisters to either return the models or the small amount in cash required and rely on the good words to be spoken to advertise it to others. We thus give all who see this notice a chance to inspect the great system free of charge for the next thirty days, and an offer goes with the models whereby you can secure it entirely free and make much money and secure valuable premiums talking it up and introducing to others. Don't wait, act quick before our first lot is exhausted, send full name and complete address to

"COMFORT'S" MODEL SYSTEM, Augusta, Maine.

THE CANARY ISLANDS.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18.)

socially and morally, as their neighbors. Some of these cave homes, notably those of the agricultural people, are fairly well furnished, with tables, chairs, beds and dishes, and the food is various and well cooked. The women do all the work in the fields except the plowing.

Another class of cave dwellers are the potters, who make all the earthenware used on the islands. These live principally at Atalaya, on Grand Canary. They have lived here for generations, their caves having been handed down from father to son. They are very poor and ignorant, and perhaps a little rough, and they will steal if they are given a chance. They dress in cotton, originally white, but now both ragged and exceedingly dirty, as it seldom comes in contact with soap and water; but when we consider the lack of water in these cave dwellings we cease to wonder at the dirt.

The pottery is made by the women, the men doing their part by bringing the clay and the wood for the firing. When ready for work the woman is seated cross-legged on the ground, a flat stone about eighteen inches square in front of her, a lump of gray earth on one side, and an earthenware basin of water on the other. Taking a lump of clay in her hand she dampens it, rapidly rolls it into a ball, then placing it on the stone, she presses it out into a basin shape, moving it round to preserve the circular form. With more of the dampened clay she gradually increases its height, keeping the left hand always within the basin. A mouth is formed, a handle added, and in perhaps ten minutes the dish is ready to be set in the sun to dry. If adornment is wanted lines are drawn on the outside with a particular kind of smooth stone. There is no great beauty to civilized, educated eyes in these lines of ornamentation, but it is curious to observe that they are the same as those made by the old Guanches on their pottery, thus showing how little these people have changed their manners and customs. The ovens in which the pottery is baked are dome-shaped, built of stone, filled in with mud.

The other islands in this group—Palma, Lanzarote, Graciose, Fuerteventura and Hierro, have no large cities or towns, and are not so well known as the first two. All are inhabited and somewhat cultivated, and the products are exported to the other islands. Social intercourse between the islands is very slight. Although the same nationality and speaking the same language the inhabitants of the various islands differ decidedly in habits, food and dress, and have, besides, as strong a love for their own particular island as we of the United States have for our country. As an instance of the attachment of the islanders to their own home, however poor it may be, we have only to observe the behavior of the people living in the island of Hierro. This island has neither springs, wells, lakes nor rivers, and is, in consequence, except in the rainy season, an arid desert. The people are poor, lazy and shiftless, and will not take the trouble to save water for a time of need. So they are forced to betake themselves, during the dry season, to the neighboring islands, and depend on the charity of others for food and shelter as long as the drought continues. But the moment they can safely do so they return to their barren little island and there remain until again driven off by a water famine. Fortunately for these improvident people, the dwellers on the other islands have a far larger and wider patriotism than they, always ready and willing to share their homes and food with their needy but lazy fellow-countrymen. Hence the pauper exists, and herein lies a lesson for all of us who will heed it on the evils of indiscriminate giving to the poor instead of teaching them how to do for themselves.

One of the greatest curiosities of the Canary Islands is the Dragon Tree, which is found nowhere else in the world with the exception of the northern part of Africa. It is a tree of exceedingly slow growth, living sometimes for thousands of years. Its stiff and ungainly appearance is owing in part to the branches, which are entirely bare of leaves except at the very tips where there is a tuft of long, narrow, sword-like leaves, each ending in a sharp point. Its sap is blood red and when the tree is wounded the sap oozes slowly out like the blood from a wound in human flesh. In extreme old age glandular warts form upon the tree, from three to ten inches in size. This tree never branches until after it has blossomed, and the blossoming does not take place earlier than the fifteenth year of its life. After putting out branches it never increases in height, but spreads in circumference from year to year. The name Dragon Tree was given to it by one of the old Guanches, who believed that upon their islands was situated the famous Garden of the Hesperides, and that this tree guarded with its leaves the entrance to the garden, and protected from marauders the Tree of Golden Apples which grew in the garden.

Aloes are here used for hedges along the sides of the roads. The leaves of this plant are four or five inches in length, while the blossom-stalk shoots upward, sometimes for twenty feet before developing its flowers. The leaves of this plant are used as food for goats, and also by the poorer classes as thatching for their houses. Of the fibre are made the native baskets and also ropes of various kinds.

Cochineal insects, which have long been one of the staple products of these islands, are fed upon the leaves of the prickly pear, great fields of which may be seen on the lowlands near the coast. The larvæ are placed carefully upon the leaves of the plant, where they develop and grow, moving very little during their lives from the spot where they are first placed. During the rainy season the plants are tied up in cotton rags to prevent the rain from washing off the insects; sometimes a whole bush is enveloped in a rag, as shown in the initial illustration, while in other places each leaf or bunch of leaves is separately wrapped. A field of prickly pear thus enveloped is a very odd sight and the labor involved in thus caring for the insects must be very tedious and wearisome.

Upon attaining their maturity, or, as the natives say, when they become rine, the insects are carefully picked off into baskets and dried in the sun. Then they are put into a sheet, together with a quantity of fine black sand, and shaken to and fro for a long time to give them a polish. The trade in cochineal has very sensibly diminished since the discovery of analyne dyes, but no other dye produces so brilliant a red as that derived from the cochineal insects.

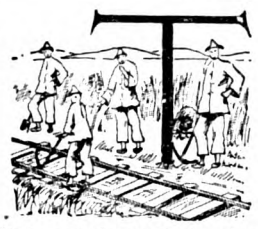
The oranges of the Canary Islands have always been considered fine, but the best ones, a small, delicate fruit, are exceedingly perishable, lasting only two or three days after being gathered, and for this reason are never shipped for market. Shipmasters who have eaten them there, and who have also had opportunities for extensive sampling of the fruit elsewhere, say that they are by far the finest oranges in the world.

Owing to the volcanic origin of these islands there is very little animal life here except what has been introduced from other lands, consequently neither ferocious beasts nor poisonous snakes are anywhere to be met with.

It is now scarcely twenty-five years since these islands became known to travelers and tourists; but so fascinating are they with their fine climate, their wild scenery and their quaint people and customs that they are fast becoming one of the world's popular resorts, and, in consequence, are rapidly losing the ancient ways of living that now make so much of their charm.

Railroads in China.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE are in all more than 400,000 miles of railroads in the world, and of this total mileage nearly 175,000 miles belong to the United States, and 150,000 miles to Europe. Of the remaining 75,000 miles only 80 miles belong to China, and even this short railroad required years of negotiation, deliberation, destruction and reconstruction to bring into existence. All the world knows of the opposition experienced in China by any innovation upon its customs or any novelty or improvement attempted to better its condition or to further its interests or its communication with the outside world. The first railroad line in China was started more than twenty years ago, and was intended to connect the city of Shanghai with Wusung. After it had run successfully for a year the Chinese Government bought it, and soon after the track was torn up and the materials were shipped out of the country. That was the end of that road. A second small road was built and shared the same fate, and then for a long time no further attempt was made at railroad building. Then the present road of eighty miles in length was started to run between the cities of T'ien-Tsin and Kai-Ping, under the supervision and advocacy of Li Hung Chang, the venerable Representative from China who recently visited in our country. He it is who is at the head of all the improvements which are permitted in China, and it is largely for the purpose of studying the advances made in foreign countries and applying the knowledge thus gained to the betterment of his own that this distinguished man has been making a tour of the civilized world. He has already started an extension of this small line of railroad to form a trunk line to connect the cities of T'ien-Tsin and Pekin. This trunk line is, as was just said, *started*, but at the rate that Chinese enterprises usually move it may be twenty years before it is finished. The people of China object to any alliances or improvement of any description which tend to open up either the ports or the cities of China to outsiders, and experienced observers of Chinese character and Chinese customs and prejudices declare that there will be no work done on the railroad unless Li Hung Chang is on the spot to superintend and force the work, and that perhaps even his presence will not prevent the stoppage of work upon the road for several years to come, if, indeed, it is ever finished.

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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Well, cousins all, did you have a Happy New Year's day, and is its sunshine and cheer still making the world brighter for you? Let us hope so, and let us hope that for all the months of this New Year it will be none the less, but more. And how many of you how many times so far have written the date 1898 instead of 1899? Now let us see who comes first on the list with a question to be answered.

Well, taking the first one in the pile of letters before me, I find that it comes from away down in Louisiana where the sugar and the sunshine grow and the biting frosts that we have here in the North never come to cover the world in white. It is from "Inquisitive" and she asks about the significance of the turn-down corners of notes. Really there isn't any. The chief purpose of turning down a corner is to act as a seal to keep it closed, and the corner which best answers this purpose is the one to turn down. (2) A very appropriate thing for a gentleman to say when he offers his arm to a lady is: "Will you take my arm?" That ought to convey the idea very clearly. There is no fixed rule for such civilities. He might say any one of a dozen things conveying the same idea.

Goosy, Marion, Ia.—Admiral Dewey is a widower and he is not an old man. But don't set your cap for him, because it will be effort wasted, I'm pretty sure. (2) Speaking of your sweetheart, my advice to you is not to marry a man ten years younger than yourself. Such marriages are sometimes quite happy, but it isn't advisable to take the risk.

Evedne Brooke, Atwater, Minn.—I should say it was not altogether the proper thing for girls to put on boys' clothes and go out on the street at Halloween, though I have heard of nice girls doing it. Only a very bold and thoughtless girl will engage in that kind of sport, and it isn't really nice. (2) A sixteen year old girl, five feet six inches tall, should wear her gowns below her shoe tops.

Sixteen, Seventeen, and Twenty-five, Flat Hill, S. C.—A young man may call three times a week, but he will not unless he has serious intentions. (2) A young lady may ask a young man for his photograph, whether he has hers or not, but not unless they are long-time friends. The same applies to giving presents. (3) The question of the handsomeness of a man should have very little to do with a decision for your favor. Unless it be against him. As a rule the poorest husband in the world is one of these "real handsome" men. They are generally vain and selfish and other women make fools of them. Don't pick out the homeliest man you can find, but if you have to take that kind or the handsomest, take the homeliest one every time. (4) Yes, a sixteen year old girl may wear her hair in a knot. It is more becoming if worn low on the back of the head. (5) A young lady with black hair should marry a gentleman with light hair if she loves him and he asks her to. As for the physiology of it, there isn't much in that, except what you read in novels about the "affinity of contrast." (6) A young lady of twenty-five is not too young to marry a man of forty. A quiet wedding is preferable to much display.

Anxious, Vandalia, Mich:—Why should a young man have any more right to kiss a girl when sleigh riding than at any other time?

Two Girls, Summersville, W. Va.—Twelve year old girls should wear their dresses as long as their mothers say they should. (2) As for beaus, twelve year old girls should wait ten years before thinking of such things.

Rosebud, Volta, Cal.—It is not improper for a young man and young lady to exchange rings, but it is just as well not to, unless they are very good friends. (2) They should not become engaged until they know each other very well. It might take three weeks and it might take three years. Let us compromise and say a year. Short engagements are better than long ones. Say three to six months, if the previous acquaintance has been a year or less. (3) It is not right for a young man to flirt with girls when he is engaged or when he is not. It is not only not right when he is engaged, but it is mean and dishonest.

Polly and Bessie, Parker's Landing, Pa.—A sixteen year old girl ought to be so busy with her school books that she would not have time to see a young man who called on her twice a week. He might take her to the theater on Saturday nights if her parents had no objections, and the young man was well known. (2) I don't know about a "grass widower" calling on a girl of eighteen. He may be a very nice man and unfortunate rather than to blame because he is a "grass widower," still, a girl of eighteen had better wait, say four years. She will know more then. And in the meantime don't accept the man as an escort either to entertainments or elsewhere. If he is not divorced and perfectly free, have absolutely nothing to do with him if you think at all of yourself.

L. C., Vinton, La.—For mercantile information such as you seek write to President King, Merchants' Association, New York City, asking for a list of firms. You can get information from New Orleans, Atlanta, Louisville, or Cincinnati, by writing to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Fanny Power, Shanesville, W. Va.—It is not customary to wear other jewelry than mourning jewelry when in mourning, which, of course, is made of various black materials. A sixteen year old girl should not wear mourning at all.

Helen and Ethel are two fifteen year old girls of Plattsburg, Mo., who write to say that they are engaged to marry two lads of eighteen and nineteen and as their mothers object, they want to know what my advice is. It is simple enough; all four of them ought to be thoroughly spanked, and Helen and Ethel sent to school until they learn the right way to spell circumstance which is not "surcumstance," even if they have to stay there forty years. My, my, but some girls are too silly for any use.

Mattie Tipton, Irvine, Ky.—The reason you see short stories published over and over again is that they are free property and editors keep them going, as they may happen to need something of that sort. You will not find the same story in the same paper more than once, I think. Sometimes you may see the same story in two or three or more papers at once, but they are far apart and such stories are sold by syndicate to several papers with that understanding. (2) Having sold a manuscript to any publisher who copyrights it, you sell also the right to use it again. It is no longer your property, even when the copyright expires, after fourteen years. (3) If you send a poem to a paper and after it is returned to you it appears in that paper, it has been stolen. That is all there is to that. (4) I don't know anything about the party you ask about. As a general proposition it is just as safe not to give up any money until you know what you are going to get for it. (5) There isn't any "best poetess" in America or in the world at present, though there are several poetesses who write very good poetry.

Two Cousins, Big Rapids, Mich.—Yes, it is proper to correspond with one young man when "keeping company" with another, but not if you are engaged to the other. (2) It is a lady's place to pay her own hotel bill.

Rose, Otho, Ky.—A fourteen year old girl should wear her dresses to her shoe-tops, and she should not go driving with a gentleman unless it is her father or some other near relative.

Margie, Applegarth, Md.—Girls of seventeen have had beaus and even husbands, but it is not a custom to be commended. Wait till you are past twenty. (2) Make the young men keep their distance. Every liberty you permit makes the man have that much less respect for you, and he is telling you a lie if he says it does not. That is to say if the man is decent. If he isn't, you should have nothing to do with him. (3) Use your own judgment and taste in making a present to your "beau," but let it be inexpensive. Give him some little thing for personal use.

There, dears, that is the last one, and while some of them have been a little silly and too much about beaus, they are generally very much like girls, and goodness knows I'd rather see you silly girls than foolish women, for a silly girl can be cured if taken in time. Now, by-by for a month and may the good Lord watch over you until we meet again.

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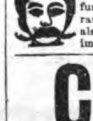
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SENT FREE TO MEN

A Discovery for Lost Manhood Sent Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for It.

G. B. Wright Was Restored to Health and Makes a Generous Offer.

George B. Wright, a merchant and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years, offers to send the medical prescription that effected the cure to every reader of COMFORT who



is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge. As certain as a wound leaves a scar and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no telltale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of despair, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form, quack doctors, who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate these horrors of lost manhood except he has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was affected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical powers go from him as the result of insidious disease until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his ten years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will not only brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself, but will restore the parts to their original size and vigor.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him but little to do so and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, box 1210, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

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C. S. A. MONEY Circulars free. Address P. E. Cheney, Box 6, Mutual, Ohio.

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AGAIN IN ITS GRASP.

Tightening its toils, we mean that sneezing, coughing, back-aching malady—that creeps stealthily on its victim, bears him down for a time and when confident of recovery *takes him from our midst*—epidemic, influenza or La Grippe.

In this land, as in others, it sneered at the attempts of our scientists and medics to arrest its terrible course.

In a twinkling, in '91, old, middle aged and young were seized as victims and struggling in its grasp.



Fully 50 per cent. were destined never to recover. Many families were extinguished entire. Many were torn apart and the few remaining members left with the memories of a once happy home.

Thousands were brought to a bed of suffering for the remainder of their life. Thousands more were left subjects for the mad house.

The heroic endeavors of the medical profession saved many of those who were stricken with La Grippe, but in most of those cases the saving of life was but to prolong the misery, for it is well known that wherever the monster sets its seal, it is sure to leave unfavorable results, but in the past record of the distemper it has been proven that that little plain, simple tablet called OXIEN, had a large sized mission to perform in this one particular, and how well it did its duty is attested by the numerous letters received from our grateful friends. OXIEN probably did more to ward off La Grippe, lessen the suffering, and effect a complete cure than any or all of the advertised remedies.

The dreaded disease takes a ready hold of the system unprepared to withstand its ravages and it is a duty you all owe to your friends and relatives, to be fortified upon the arrival of the first symptoms. How shall we do this?

Keep a supply of the food on hand. When you feel a slight cold coming on, look out, it is the warning note. The sneezing, hacking and coughing is the messenger of warning sent you. Commence taking the tablets as directed and you will note with pleasure the results. No great bottle of medicine to dose from. A supply for the day can be carried in the vest pocket. The busy man's companion and friend. Pleasant, Effective, Inexpensive.

Do not wait until La Grippe has you in bed or on the way to the grave, for the Giant Oxie Co., Augusta, Maine, will send you without charge a sample package if you apply this month, together with new special directions so you can use it as a hot beverage.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE Sun's entrance into Aries or the **Vernal Equinox** is always an important epoch. It marks the beginning of a new Astronomical year and from the condition of the heavens at that moment, Astrologers are wont to judge of the nature of events to happen in the world in the coming twelve months. This year the Sun "*crosses the line*" at about thirty-eight minutes past two in the afternoon of the 20th day of March, according to mean time at Washington, the seat of government of our country. The horoscope of the year erected to that time shows the fixed sign Leo on the Ascending horizon or Ascendant and Taurus on the Midheaven. The Sun rules the scheme and the year and will be found to be very close to the cusp of the 9th house; while Venus, the ruler of the 10th house, is strong upon the 7th angle of the figure. The moon has just passed the square of Mercury and is applying to the conjunction with Mars on the cusp of the 12th house; Mercury in the 9th house in good aspect with Venus ruler of the 10th house is applying to a square with Mars though a benevolent aspect to Saturn in the 5th. Herschel is in the 4th house near the cusp of the 5th, while Jupiter, the great benefic, is angular and strong, being on the cusp of the 4th house.

The Sun passing from the untoward aspect of the great malefic Saturn and applying to the better rays of the great bodies as well as the lesser benefic, ruler of the 10th house, is indicative of an improved condition of the country and of monetary and commercial circles generally. As the days lengthen we shall seem to emerge from many of the clouds that have surrounded us. Money will become more easy and a better equilibrium be established in the mercantile world in the coming months, but not until some failures of magnitude have occurred and some excitement of a temporary character has been experienced in the money markets of the country around the first fifteen days in April. There will be much discussion in Congress over the matter of the nation's finances and expenditures for war purposes or for expatriation of prisoners. Religious questions appear to cause considerable excitement, and developments in ecclesiastical affairs create grave anxieties in orthodox minds.

The year will be an unusually busy one for artists, scientists, literary men and churchmen and for new inventions and the spread of education. There will be a marked increase of foreign travel and very active discussions in Congress over foreign trade and the commercial powers of the nation. There will be much annoyance if not serious embroilments over questions of trade in trans-Pacific countries.

The affliction by Mars indicates a season of disorder among the people in some of our south-eastern or extreme western possessions over local affairs or in reference to prisoners or criminals, where some unusual mortality results from bad fevers or eruptive diseases among the soldiery; and it is apprehended that we shall hear of a bad marine disaster in south-eastern waters as well as an unusually large number of accidents or violent storms upon the waters. Mars also gives indications of some peculiar epidemic disease affecting cattle and horses injuriously.

The indications as a whole are very favorable for the advancement of the best interests of the country. The great benefic on the 4th is very promising for our crops and the prosperity of the farming communities, also mining industries and real estate improvements. Some excitement is probable in the spring weeks from threatened strikes among the manufacturing classes, notably in the month of April. Let persons in charge of prisons have care that they are not surprised by dangerous outbreaks or insubordination in the first part of April.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR MARCH, 1899.

MARCH 1—Wednesday. This month opens with generally good conditions for conduct of business, though baffling circumstances attend the prosecution of business relating to fancy and ornamental goods, musical merchandise, and also the pursuit of the fine arts; beware of making any matrimonial engagement at this time nor expect much enjoyment from the pursuit of pleasure or amusements.

2—Thursday. One of the most excellent days of the month. REGULUS advises all of his friends to take advantage of the bright and cheering influences of this day to enter with zeal on their various pursuits in life; buy goods for trade, engage in new enterprises, speculate if thy nativity be fairly favorable; deal with judges, counsellors, ecclesiastics and traders in wool and woolens; prosecute mathematical and scientific studies; deal with the intellectual classes, booksellers, publishers and printers; publish literary productions and do all important correspondence; let all persons of an ingenious or inventive turn of mind use the influences of this day for their most important steps; for inaugurating principal moves, experimenting with apparatus; making applications for patents, or dealing in stocks or properties concerning such things or any kind of chemical or mechanical contrivances, providing thy nativity is in harmony at this time and is not radically opposed to such moves.

3—Friday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with increased vigor on this day; specially urge the mechanical pursuits, deal in machinery, electrical apparatus, cutlery, fire-arms, hardware, musical merchandise, artistic and decorative wares, household adornments, fancy goods and wearing apparel; consult thy dentist, tailor, milliner and dress-maker. The day is a superior one and REGULUS commends it for beginnings in nearly all the important enterprises, particularly in the elegant and artistic walks. It is favorable for making the matrimonial engagements, leading thy fair one to the altar, engaging in dramatic enterprises and pursuing the fine arts in any direction.

4—Saturday. Be not rash in word or act during the first half of this day; travel as little as possible and do thou seek no advantage at the hands of officers of state, merchants, travelers, teachers, or ingenious persons in charge of great public works.

5—Sunday. Seek nothing but rest and quiet during all of this day. It is not favorable as a birthday anniversary and all persons claiming it or who were born about the 11th of March, June, September, or December of past years, should be careful of serious pecuniary losses, straitened conditions of finances, or impairments of health for several weeks to come; to many of these is due the caution that they shall be very guarded in their acts and so cautious in their associations as not to debase themselves or their good name and honor among their fellow men; let all such be on the alert against deceit or being misled into holding evil communications, for there is extreme danger that many of these will in the passing months of their life stoop to doing acts that not only besmirch the mind or reflect discredit upon the reputation but injure their best interests in life; let them bear patiently the ills they have rather than by changing fly to evils they know not of; annoying disappointments in their affairs may reasonably be expected for a season, so they will need to practice patience and still be persevering in their honorable efforts for their welfare. Ladies so born should beware of forming matrimonial engagements in these passing weeks and be especially careful of new associations and of making new acquaintances.

6—Monday. A very favorable day for the vigorous prosecution of general business, being particularly fortunate in the afternoon hours for buying goods for trade and for attention to matters of finance and the adjustment of accounts and evidences of money indebtedness.

7—Tuesday. The middle part of this day bids thee have patience under any species of excitement; avoiding disputes and contention of any kind. Give preference to the afternoon and evening for all mental labor of consequence and for dealings with persons in the literary pursuits; notwithstanding the fact that the literary pursuits are for a few days experiencing unusual embarrassments or persons in the literary walks of life are meeting more misfortunes than usual. It is apprehended that death will come here to some one or more of the *literati* of prominence in the world.

8—Wednesday. This day should be improved for principal ventures in music, art and all the polite professions, also for antiquarian researches and dealings with eccentric persons and inventors; be watchful of the purse in the late hours when no investment should be made for profit.

9—Thursday. Quite a favorable day for the agricultural classes also for engagements with landlords and in matters connected with houses and lands; deal with plumbers and the laboring classes genera ly; buy materials for building or construction, coal, wood, lumber and agricultural products.

10—Friday. Not a promising day; cautioning avoidance of disputes and domestic infelicities especially in nativities susceptible in this respect; seek no favor from railroad officials nor from persons high in public office.

11—Saturday. Lose no time in the first two-thirds of this day but urge thine affairs of all kinds to the utmost, giving preference to the morning hours for thy principal ventures in the mechanical pursuits; deal with manufacturers, surgeons, cutlers, tanners, chemists and druggists when also trade in cattle, metals and machinery. The latter part of the day is less to be depended upon and matters of importance are best postponed. Ventures of all kinds are likely to meet with some embarrassment or hindrance to progress in the last hours of the day; beware of making any money investment at such time if you would gain profit or advantage therefrom.

12—Sunday. This day is unusually benevolent, particularly inviting communion with the poet, musician, and artist, and giving special appreciation of the beautiful in religion, nature and art.

13—Monday. A day of increased mental excitement; the mind is likely to be rash and quarrels are easily provoked; keep a civil tongue, be slow to take offense, avoid all controversy, be not careless with fire, be deliberate in judgment and particularly avoid rashness or impulsiveness in business ventures; use the evening hours for negotiations pertaining to landed property, mines, coal, or lumber.

14—Tuesday. Conflicting influences prevail on this day and more than ordinary circumspection should be exercised in all thine undertakings of much magnitude; indeed, a little procrastination at this time will be likely to prove rather more salutary than unwise. REGULUS particularly charges those who claim this as the anniversary of their birthday or who were born about the 14th of June, September, or December of past years, to exercise the best of care in all matters of health and finance; the female portion so born, if married, will need to be watchful against serious trouble through their husbands or in the marriage and domestic relations, and lovers who were born at such times are likely to experience unhappiness through their intended partners unless extremely careful. Disappointment or deceit through them are threatened. Males born at or about such times should now see to it that business ruptures and changes do not come from acts of theirs and should not at this time begin important undertakings but be satisfied with their present lot rather than seek now to improve it by new ventures.

15—Wednesday. Dramatists, musicians, artists, jewelers, upholsterers, and furniture dealers are just at this time "under a pecuniary ban," experience losses or embarrassments and will need to exercise unusual caution; it will be well for theatrical managers and artists if they defer for a few days entering into important professional engagements. The last two-thirds of the day encourages the mechanical and chemical pursuits, also dealings of minor character with cutlers, military men and generally those whose avocations are conducted by use of fire and sharp instruments or machinery.

16—Thursday. Seek advantage from thine employer during the forenoon when also ask favors from public officials and persons in authority in great corporations.

17—Friday. Avoid the morning hours for any venture of magnitude but as the noon hour is passed, let every moment be improved for forwarding the principal undertakings; the day then is peculiarly propitious for the artist and literati alike and should be fully employed in these respects; special efforts should be given also to enterprises pertaining to the scientific pursuits and such as are concerned with the elegant occupations or polite arts; purchase wearing apparel and fancy and ornamental goods.

18—Saturday. Conditions are decidedly baffling on this day and it is better to defer matters of much importance until a more promising time; make no contracts concerning houses or lands, nor have any dealings with agriculturalists, miners or contractors.

19—Sunday. A specially fortunate Sabbath day, inducing mental activity and promoting pulpit eloquence and the enjoyment of literary productions either in poetry or prose.

20—Monday. This day is peculiarly unpropitious and bids thee postpone important writings and correspondence and all commercial enterprises; "look twice" and avoid too hasty decisions; hold the temper and be not involved in disputes in the afternoon; let commercial men here look out for misrepresentations and bank officers scrutinize signatures, as forgers and mischief makers will be active; have care against fires and see that no harm can come through horses and dogs. Accidents upon the water are to be guarded against.

21—Tuesday. Use this day for seeking favors from thine employer or making application for advantage from persons in authority.

22—Wednesday. Have care in giving thy signature or loaning thy credit in business engagements during this day and beware of speculative purchases; the afternoon is the best part of the day.

23—Thursday. This is one of the excellent days of the month. It is the merchants' own day and also fortunate for every honorable pursuit; buy houses and lands, travel, sign writings, urge literary and scientific pursuits; deal with plumbers, tinners, gardeners, and building contractors; effect contracts with printers and publishers; hire help, and do important correspondence. The very early morning is less promising.

24—Friday. Do no important writing in the last two-thirds of the day, especially concerning patents or machinery; do not involve thyself in litigation nor be hasty of speech or act, keeping the truth on thy side, no matter how great the temptation to exaggerate or misrepresent.

25—Saturday. Give preference to the forenoon hours for all commercial transactions and literary efforts. The day is indifferent in most other respects.

26—Sunday. A day in which the musical portion of religious worship will be unusually happy and effective and the mind will be unusually inclined toward the elegant in literature.

27—Monday. This day is generally propitious for urging all honorable pursuits without special encouragement to any particular engagement.

28—Tuesday. Avoid litigations; use thy pen cautiously; engage in no important transactions with printers, booksellers, stationers, mathematicians, lawyers, or public writers and travel not unnecessarily; preference should be given to the artistic pursuits, and such matters as are concerned with the building or improvement of houses.

29—Wednesday. One of the very favorable days of the month; be up with the Sun and urge business vigorously throughout the day; buy goods to sell again; deal with the banker and all persons of prominence or distinction; make beginnings in important matters concerned with art, music, fancy goods, articles of adornment and generally the beautiful and elegant in life; seek audience with the ladies and lead thy fair one to the altar. REGULUS specially advises his friends to take advantage of these cheering influences and to push zealously their several affairs and pursuits in life.

30—Thursday. Improve the middle hours of this day for dealing in metals, machinery, cutlery, drugs, chemicals and electrical apparatus and for pursuit of the mechanical trades and inventions; deal with engineers, machinists, carpenters, glass-workers, bakers, tailors, tanners and generally all in the mechanical pursuits; do not expect much pleasure from the drama or social entertainment.

31—Friday. The forenoon hours are the best and all general business should be prosecuted with vigor therein, but as the afternoon advances baffling influences interfere with realization of best results from engagements of those later hours.

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The only preparation known to science which really cures Lost Manhood is "CALTHOS," the marvelous French remedy discovered by Prof. Jules Laborde. It is controlled in this country by The Von Mohl Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a concern which occupies a high and honorable place in the world of medicine. It is one of the largest and most responsible houses in Cincinnati, as anyone who is acquainted in that city will testify.

The Von Mohl Company invites all men suffering from Lost Manhood, Spermatorrhœa, Varicocele, Small Parts or Weakness of any nature in the Nerves or Sexual Organs, to send their names and receive a five days' treatment. This will prove the wonderful vitalizing powers of "CALTHOS." After using it five days the sufferers will find new vigor in their organs, new force in their muscles, new blood in their veins, new ambition, and rapid progress toward the buoyant feelings and sensations of younger days.

This liberal free offer is genuine. There is no swindling C. O. D. or Deposit Scheme connected with it. The five days' treatment is sent by sealed mail to all on request, wrapped in a plain package, and full printed instructions accompany the medicine, so that each patient becomes his own doctor and cures himself at home.

It doesn't make any difference what caused the weakness—whether bad habits in youth, or excess, or overwork, or business troubles. "CALTHOS" will effect a cure, no matter what big name the disease may be called by doctors.

The Von Mohl Company treats all correspondence in perfect confidence. Under no conditions will it make public the names of the thousands who have written testimonials telling of their restoration to robust manhood after other medicines and appliances have proved worthless. "CALTHOS" is regularly used in the French and German armies, and the soldiers in those countries have come to be perfect models of strength and vitality. Cures are effected at all ages from twenty to eighty years. There is no case (except where the stage of epilepsy or insanity has been reached) which it will not radically, quickly and permanently cure. Sexual weakness does not cure itself. It grows worse from week to week. Each day aggravates the mental and physical anguish.

Send today for the free five days' trial treatment. If it helps you, more of the medicine can be purchased. If it does not help, no harm is done and no money has been paid out. You can send your name in the full knowledge that it will be kept from all. The "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential. Address applications for trial treatment, etc., to

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The State Superintendent of Public Instruction in the state where women vote is a woman. Colorado people believe that the office has never been better conducted than during the regime of Grace Espy Patton. The "Little Professor" as she is admiringly termed, has chosen women as her assistants in the duties of the one office in the state held by a woman. The deputy superintendent, assistant librarian and clerk look after the routine duties of the office in an efficient manner that has silenced all jesting criticism as to the ability of four women.

The State Superintendent in Colorado is a me nber of the State Land Board, the State Board of Examiners and the State Board of Education and is also ex-officio State Librarian. She must visit the different counties of the state, address Teachers' Institutes, speak at commencement exercises and in all ways further the general educational interests of the state. "Professor Patton" was filling a position in the Agricultural College when she was elected to the first educational place in the state. She is a ready speaker, practical, energetic and thoroughly business-like. By many she was considered a typical "new woman," with all the common sense and independence that the term suggests. She drew her $3,000 salary, made sweeping reforms in the administration of her office and carried out her own ideas without fear or favor.

The outbreak of the war upset all these theories of an emancipated new woman, for Miss Patton promptly and suddenly married Captain Warren Hayden Cowles of the Regular Army, to whom she had long been engaged. This act involved a legal point, for it was Grace Espy Patton whom the voters of Colorado had elected. The Attorney General declared there was no precedent for an office holder changing names and that she must perform her official duties under the name she bore when elected. Whether as "Mrs." or "Miss" it is certain that the State Superintendent of Education in the Centennial State will efficiently do the work she was selected to perform.

Samuel P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, has succeeded in making a flying machine that has actually flown three-quarters of a mile. The United States Board of Ordnance has appropriated $25,000 for the further perfection of the idea. It is believed that a machine capable of carrying a man and of dropping high explosives into an enemy's camp is practical. The machine is called an aerodrome and in flight it looks like a huge fourteen foot bird.

Prof. Langley, like Darius Green of flying machine fame, is a Yankee. He was born in Roxbury, Mass., sixty-four years ago. He graduated at the Boston Latin School and later at the English High School. He did not pursue a college course but at once devoted himself to the study of astronomy. He made a journey in Europe and upon his return received an appointment in the observatory at Cambridge. Afterwards he was in turn Professor of Mathematics at the Naval Academy at Annapolis and Professor in the Western University of Pennsylvania. He became connected with the Smithsonian and it was his influence that led to the establishment of the National Zoological Park. He has received honorary degrees from the Universities of Michigan, Wisconsin, Harvard and Princeton. The leading scientific associations of the world have bestowed every honor at their command upon Professor Langley. He is a man of most winning address and has the respect and affection of all his business associates. It is his high scientific standing and the success he has already attained that leads the Board of Ordnance to believe he will reach a practical solution of the great problem of a flying machine.

"Cryano de Bergerac" has scored the greatest success of any play in years. Richard Mansfield is presenting the romantic poem as a play in all the large cities and hundreds are turned away daily, unable to secure a seat. The author of the play is Monsieur Edmond Rostand of Paris. One year ago his fame did not extend beyond Paris. To-day no author in the world is better known. It is the phenomenal success of "Cyrano" that has brought fame. M. Rostand is but thirty years of age. His family are noted for their practical grasp of affairs. M. Rostand was educated in Paris where he prepared for the practice of law but the poet nature rebelled against the routine and in 1890 he made his first venture in literature. These plays had been written and acted upon the Paris stage before the great success of "Cyrano" made its author world known. M. Rostand is not a rich man although his lavish expenditure of the money that has come to him has led many people to think he is. He phrases it "only a spendthrift." "Cyrano" is founded upon actual history, but the romance, the poetry of the play make its success in this matter-of-fact age somewhat remarkable.



A. H. Savage Landor, who is making a lecture tour in England and will soon come to this country, has demonstrated that even this prosaic nineteenth century has material for thrilling romances. Ever since Sir John Mandeville wrote his book of travels in the fourteenth century, restless Englishmen have been traveling and then writing about it. No stranger tale has been told in any of the centuries than Landor's adventures in the forbidden land of Thibet. No white man may enter this Asian plateau or set foot within the sacred city of Thassa on pain of death. This the young Englishman essayed to do and his adventures are set forth in a book entitled "In the Forbidden Land. An Account of a Journey into Thibet; Captured by the Thibetan Lamas and Soldiers; Imprisonment, Torture and Ultimate Release." Mr. Landor's lecture deals with the same exciting scenes. Mr. Landor is a young man and a grandson of the famous English author of the same name. He is slight and dark with characteristics that suggest the Italians among whom he has spent the most of his life. He lives at a village near Florence where he cultivates vines and olives. This is only in the intervals between his constant travels. Intensity seems the key note to his character. To see, to know, to feel all that life can give has been the motive power to his ceaseless activity. Ordinary discomforts have no significance to him, even torture and fear of immediate death could not turn his mind from its purpose. His first journey was to the island of Yezo and a very entertaining book followed. Another trip through Japan and the East, furnished material for a number of pictures painted in those countries. These were exhibited in London. Mr. Alfred Harmsworth, a magazine proprietor of London, became interested in Mr. Landor's work and with the idea of providing "copy" for his magazine, he equipped the expedition that left England in the spring of 1897. Mr. Landor had trained himself in the use of the sextant and intended to explore the head waters of the Bramahputra. He entered the Thibetan plateau, the country of God as the Lamas call it, from northern India. He came back prematurely aged, haggard and wan. He did not reach the Sacred City but he did discover the head waters of the Bramahputra and collected some data as to mountain elevation and the location of some lakes. Within less than a year he had met adventures and horrible experiences that seem hardly possible in this century. Mr. Landor will not fail to interest people because he tells a story that has never been told before.

Mary Leiter was well known in the society of Washington and New York as a beauty and an heiress. With the Leiter millions back of her it seemed that she might make a brilliant international marriage, and when she became Mrs. Curzon the public was somewhat disappointed. A bright young Englishman but no title—and no wealth. Now Lady Curzon bows to no one except the Queen of England. As Vicereine of India she takes precedence next to the Empress whom she represents. Her palace in Calcutta contains a throne room with an immense throne for Queen Victoria and two smaller thrones for the Viceroy and Vicereine. On state occasions Lady Curzon wears a crown. With plumes in her hair, a train of enormous length and all the jewels she can wear the Vicereine presents a really queenly air. The transformation of an American girl into a semi-royalty presents food for thought.

Occasionally the "dramatis persona" of international marriages are reversed in their national relations and it is the American man who marries the foreign woman. This has been the case with Mr. William Widgery Thomas our Minister to Sweden. During his first official term at the court of King Oscar he married the charming Swedish woman whose grace and affability have been no small factors in her husband's later success. Miss Dagmar Elizabeth Tornebladh was the daughter of Dagmar Tornebladh, knight and nobleman of Sweden and manager of the National Bank of that country. Mr. Thomas speaks Swedish fluently and so effectively that the handsome fair-haired young Swedish belle consented to become his wife in 1889. She has since then resided some time in this country where her tact, her sunniness and her warm-hearted courtesy made her scores of friends in the land of her adoption.

There were many acts of heroism and self-denial in the late war that have been unheralded by the newspapers. The search light of publicity has hardly been thrown upon the woman whom the soldiers named the "Good Angel of Porto Rico." Margaret Astor Chanler bears a well-known name and is a great-great-granddaughter to the original John Jacob Astor. She inherits the Astor wealth and has a personal income of $30,000 per year. She also inherits the restless activity that must see, know, do for itself. Her brother has made a name as an explorer as well as for fitting out a regiment and winning a seat in Congress. Miss Chanler entered the service as a volunteer nurse. No duty was too hard for this delicately reared woman. By the operating table, in fever haunted camps and in camps of detention she worked. Life to her means the reality of struggle, heroism, self sacrifice and even death if it chances. Miss Chanler has made no public parade of her work. She has given freely of her wealth and she has illustrated the truth "He gives twice who gives himself." She is a tall, slender woman, brown haired and brown eyed, with the earnest, thoughtful look of those who know from personal experience that life is real, life is earnest.



Mexico is the only republic of Spanish origin that has a government in any degree stable. General Porfirio Diaz is at the head of 15,000,000 of people—yet no humble laborer works harder than this man. General Diaz is of mixed Spanish and Indian blood and shows the best traits of both races. He fought his way upward step by step. He studied law and in order that he might obtain money to buy books he taught other lads. He advised one poor young man, "Do as I did. Study nights until two or three o'clock in the morning with your head bound up in a towel." At the head of a great sister republic, General Diaz has not given up the habits of untiring diligence that led him to the top round of success. He has the habit of giving his entire attention to the matter of the moment. It is this ability to concentrate and force his attention that gives him his facility in disposing of an amount of work that would overpower other men. He is fond of society, affable and courteous, but is obliged to forego much social intercourse in order to meet the demands of his position. General Diaz is an advanced thinker. He is progressive, a student of the age in which he lives and of his fellowmen. He is slowly evolving a "Modern Mexico" out of the old Spanish colony. It is in part owing to the personality of Diaz that Mexico seems at last to have a stable form of government.

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MARCH 1899

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COMFORT

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NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON.

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E. W. E. Thompson, Fifth Prize.

THE ODD ONE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARA A. UNDERWOOD.

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SYNOPSIS.

Theo Staples, eldest daughter of the senior partner of Staples & Stilton, publishers, was called by the family the odd one, as she had peculiar ideas on many things. She was a very lovely girl of twenty-three, and desired to enter her father's publishing house to learn the business—more as a means of aiding working women than for any other reason. Her father reluctantly allowed her to do this, and his young partner, Ambrose Stilton, took a great fancy to her, though he could see that she disliked him. Oliver Norman, a foreman in one of the departments, however, attracted her in an unaccountable manner, and they became friendly on account of their peculiar tendencies; they were able to read each other's thoughts, and this led to experiments tried at Theo's home, in which all the family were interested. Oliver Norman was an inventor, and in his spare moments was working on an invention in a little room which had been partitioned off for him, at the publishing house. Ambrose Stilton, being furious at the popularity of Norman with the Staples family, and his own ill success in winning the regard of Theo, decided to develop his known tendencies toward hypnotic influences, and did this with such good effect that as a result of his influence over Theo she decided to leave the office for a time and accompany the family to Newport. There she regained her normal tone, and one evening while alone on the beach she heard a voice calling her name. Recognizing the voice as that of Oliver Norman, she at once knew he must be in trouble, and the following morning started for Boston, where she met Norman on the Common.



"OU here, Miss Staples," he exclaimed almost joyously. "I thought you were at Newport—but how providential! I wanted your advice so much, but I could not venture to take the privilege of writing you."

Theo regarded him steadily. "Do you know," she said, "I have the feeling that you are in some great trouble! If so do let me know how I can help you."

"Oh, Miss Staples, I am a ruined man," he cried, "and I don't understand it at all."

"Sit down here and tell me all about it," said Theo sympathetically, making room for him on the bench.

"Last Saturday night," he began as he obeyed her, "before locking up I gave one or two little finishing touches to my model which was about ready to send on to Washington; then I locked the door of my little room carefully. That evening Mr. Stilton paid me my weekly dues. He had sent for me to come up to the private office as your father was out. The firm's check-book was on the desk and he filled out my check and handed it to me. Then he spoke to me about my forthcoming work and the estimated cost of getting it out, and suggested a cheaper form of cover. I didn't quite understand, and he said he would run over to the building department and get a sample of the cover to show me, and asked me to remain in the office until his return, which I did. I found a book of yours on the desk and occupied myself in looking it over, and didn't even notice that the check-book lay on the desk until after a longer absence than seemed necessary, he brought the sample and caught up the check-book with some remark as to his carelessness in leaving it exposed. I told him no harm was done as no one had entered the room since he left and I had not noticed that the book was left."

"Well, what has all this to do with your ruin," prompted Theo, "I don't see yet."

"Please bear in mind all these particulars, Miss Staples, and you will see that a chain of circumstantial evidence has been found against me that is very hard to break," he continued. "Monday morning I went to take a look at my machine model and it was gone! Not that alone, but every scrap of drawing which had to do with it, and I am not sure that I can ever remodel it. You may be sure I felt blue enough all day Monday, and to add to the mystery, about eleven o'clock on that day, a messenger boy came saying that a gentleman wished to see me at once at the Revere House, room twenty-seven. I was so eager with hope that this message had something to do with my missing model that I hurried out immediately without leaving word as to where I was going, and when I arrived at the Revere House, went at once without inquiring of the clerk, to room twenty-seven, and found it vacant. A chamber-maid told me that it had been vacant two days while some repairing was being done. I felt as if I was in some nightmare dream, and felt still more so when yesterday your father came to me in an excited way bidding me follow him to the private office. There I found Stilton and the paying clerk of the bank where the firm has its deposits, and all three of them began accusing me of having forged the firm's signature to a check of three hundred dollars which the paying clerk had received from me on Monday, at 11.30 a. m., paying me in exchange that sum. The clerk declared that the person he paid it to wore a coat and hat like mine; that he didn't look particularly at me as he was so familiar with my appearance, and the check was made out in my name, but that on looking at the bungling imitation of the firm's signature he thought best to consult them as to its genuineness and both declared it a forgery. And Mr. Stilton recalled the fact that he had left the check-book on the desk Saturday when I was there alone long enough to fill out the blank check numbered the next following the only check I had of the firm for my week's wages—a check which I had not found time to cash. Then where was I, Mr. Stilton asked, when he sought me on Monday at 11 a. m? The men said they saw me snatch my hat and coat and leave the room hurriedly about ten minutes before and it was nearly noon when I returned. When I told of the message to meet an unknown man at the Revere House, and saw that I had no way to verify my statement, I did not wonder that Mr. Stilton sneered at my statements and that I was then and there dismissed from the firm's employ until I could explain things. Last night I could not sleep, I walked the streets all night long. I longed inexpressibly to see you. Oh, what am I saying? Pardon me, I am nearly insane!" He covered his face with his hands and groaned.

"Did you cry 'Theodora, Help,' last night?" she asked gravely.

"Oh, pardon me! How could you know? I did! I did! But I was in agony," he moaned.

"Well, I heard the call on the beach at Newport at ten o'clock last night—and I am here to-day in response to that call. You know that when we experimented last winter, twice you succeeded in sending me into a mesmeric trance, and I told you of things concerning others of which neither of us at that time knew, but which we found to be true. Now it is evident that there is some conspiracy afoot to ruin your prospects in life, and I think since I was made to hear your voice through space so distinctly, that I can be made use of in this way to discover who is at the bottom of all this trouble. I am going home now. I will call on my friend Miss Leon, who sometimes assisted, you remember, at our psychic sittings, who is trustworthy and deeply interested in the phenomena and will be glad to be present. At half-past two this afternoon call at the house and see if you can put me into the mesmeric state and note what I say during the trance."

A gleam of hope irradiated Norman's pale face.

"Was ever a woman so graciously good!" he said in an awed tone, "surely the unseen powers which I believe govern this universe will join forces with you to help an innocent man! I will be there at the appointed time."

Theo found her friend at home, and when the matter was explained, exceedingly anxious that the experiment should be tried. She herself would take notes.

When Norman arrived at Theo's house everything was ready for the experiment. He took from his pocket a small flat key, apparently a trunk key of the Yale patent.

"I found this," he explained to the young ladies, "just inside the door of the room where my model was kept. Whoever stole it apparently tried several of a bunch of keys before he found a key to unlock the door. In his hurry this apparently dropped on the floor unperceived. Now it has been proved over and over again that anything like this, frequently in the hands of the owner will bear about it for the time psychic traces of the individuality of such owner. So I brought it hoping it may aid in the discovery of the thief."

Of the three present Theo was apparently the least excited. Although she was perfectly passive, Oliver Norman was himself so nervous that it was sometime before he could concentrate his will sufficiently to gain power over his subject. Presently, however, Theo was under control.

Oliver placed the key tremblingly in her hands and asked: "Will you try to find the owner of this key?"

There was a long pause, then in a strange, low voice Theo answered:

"It was a tiresome search—this Spanish looking man is so secretive. He hates yet smiles upon you."

"Why does he hate me?"

"Ask the gift of God, when awakened."

Miss Leon, taking down notes thinks this a foolish answer.

"When did the owner of the key lose it?"

"When on the Sabbath, hate and jealousy mastered his soul, and possessed of many keys he would destroy the work which might make you his equal socially, nay, in some minds might make you his master."

"Did he destroy the model, or will he take a patent by-and-by?"

"In low tide walk as far as safety allows 'neath the pier at City Point Beach, you will find model—rusty."

Here Oliver took from the passive hands the key and put into them the check yet uncashed for his last week's wages. He waited a little in an apparently quiet mood before he resumed his questions.

"Can you find the mate to this check, 609? Who got it cashed?"

"We see the dark-browed one making passive Paul Dubray in bindery. With hat drawn over brow—coat and hat like yours—studied by dark one. Check No. 609 made snare—hypnotized note written to messenger office to call you to Revere House—Oh, ask Theodora to look at blotter mark in book of poems—evidence will be given. While you were called in one direction, serpent-face sent his fascinated one to bank to personate you, in opposite way—he followed to make sure his power. Make him prove alibi from 11.15 A. M. Monday to 12 M. Remember to try coat and hat on Paul Dubray to see how like you—Power gone—wake her now."

In obedience Oliver Norman made the necessary passes to arouse Theo. She looked around with a dazed smile.

"Did I sleep—was it a failure or success?" she asked eagerly.

Miss Leon took it upon herself to answer.

"Well, maybe you and Mr. Norman can see sense in what you said when under influence, but to me it all sounded like nonsense, but here, read my notes for yourself."

Theo read them slowly aloud with increasing surprise at each succeeding statement. When she came to the description of the person who took the model she flashed a quick glance of intelligence at Mr. Norman.

"Oh," she exclaimed, "do you think this can be true? I never dreamed of him—and yet——" The memory of Ambrose Stilton's recent proposal recurred to her on the moment and she colored with confusion.

"So you recognize the description, do you?" queried Miss Leon with lively curiosity.

Theo turned to Norman. "Do you?" she asked.

"I suppose we both do, but until something can be proven perhaps we had best speak no name if your friend will excuse us for the present," he replied; "but if it should prove true, I must confess that he is the last person I should have mistrusted. Do you know any reason why he should hate me?" he asked Theodora suddenly.

"How should I know?" She said evasively, yet she could not prevent the tell-tale blood from dying her cheeks as she spoke. Oliver marked her confusion but he controlled his voice to say:

"Dare I ask you both to go with me as soon as possible to City Point? In an hour the tide will be at lowest ebb; it looks like a wild goose chase but if there is anything in it I would like you two as witnesses."

To this Miss Leon and Theo readily agreed. Then Oliver called Theo's attention to the sentence, "Ask Theodora to look at blotter in book of poems."

A look of intelligence came into Theo's eyes.

"Oh, yes, I wrote a note to papa and used one of several blotters on the desk. I think I put either that or some other blotter in the book to mark something Elsie Brown had underlined."

Theo searched for the book and opened it where a blotter was inserted. The first side showed only a few words of her note to her father; the other side interested her and the others much more. Over and over the firm's signature was written and rewritten in all sorts of apparently intentionally blotched penmanship. Just below these repetitions of the signature there appeared the ink marks of several lines of a letter with signature. "Paul—at the old place, Saturday evening, June—Keep free of excitement—I wish to hypnotize—new experiment—pay as usual—Stilton."

"You are better acquainted with this man than I am, Miss Staples," said Oliver. "Had you any knowledge of his hypnotic power?"

Theo's mind had been startled as she recalled the strange influence exerted on her for several weeks before going to Newport, by the presence of Stilton. She saw it all now, he had tried his hypnotic power on her with considerable effect, but she only replied:

"Not until this moment, but I recall things now which make me sure of it."

As the three rode over to South Boston, they formed themselves into an amateur detective force, arranging a plan by which to get at the truth, Miss Leon being taken into full confidence as she was to act as witness.

It was at the lowest ebb of tide that they arrived at the pier, and the girls watched with deep anxiety while Norman slowly waded out as far as possible. Finally they saw him stoop, grope about, then bring to the surface something which he held up in triumph toward them, and as he came nearer Theo saw that it was the lost model.

Theo did not return to Newport that night, nor did she think best to speak to Mr. Staples when he came home, about the events of the day. In her possession was the key found inside Norman's work-room, and early on the following day, accompanied by Miss Leon, she went to the Publishing House. She was glad to find Mr. Stilton alone in the private office. She led the conversation to the loss of Mr. Norman's model.

"I wonder," she said, "if the model was taken after Mr. Norman left Saturday. How late did you see it in his work-room, Mr. Stilton?"

"I was not inside that room for a week previous to its disappearance; I had no call to be."

After a little further conversation Theo said with an air of sudden recollection as she held out the key:

"Oh, I wonder if you can find out who owns this key? It was found on the premises and some one may miss it."

He took it from her and examined it. "Why, it is the key of my secretary," he said with surprise. "I missed it yesterday. Where did you find it?"

"I didn't find it Mr. Stilton," said Theo, "Mr. Norman found it inside his work-room Monday morning."

"It's an infamous lie," he cried, forgetting himself.

"Miss Leon here is witness to your claiming the key as yours," said Theo, significantly. "Good morning, Mr. Stilton," and they went out quickly, to wait in the parlor of the Parker House, Oliver Norman's report of his own success as detective.

Oliver remembered Paul Dubray as a rather simple minded Canadian who worked in the bindery. He was about the same build as himself, he recalled, but how he could be mistaken for him by the cashier, he could not understand. He called at the bindery and took a good look at him before interviewing him, and he saw that the lower part of Dubray's face was strangely like his own in shape merely. He was startled too, to observe hanging near him, a coat and hat identical in color and shape with those worn by himself on working days. He went to the foreman of the department where the fellow worked and found out from him that Dubray had been absent from his work during all the forenoon of the day on which the forged check was cashed. Armed with these facts, Oliver walked with decisive air straight to Dubray.

"Where did you buy that coat and hat?" he demanded.

The man looked up in surprise. "Oh, my good friend, Mr. Stilton, made me a present of them. He makes me many presents," he said with a proud smile.

Oliver perceived at once that this man was not a willful villain.

"O yes, I understand," he said pleasantly. "He tries experiments in mind-*reading* on you—you are his subject?"

"Why yes, but how came you to know?" Dubray asked. "That was our secret and I was not to tell any one, but I suppose he told you."

"Were you with Mr. Stilton last Monday?"

"Yes, we met at the —— House; you see he is finding out things for a cousin of his who is a doctor, and he says I am so good a subject that he would rather have me than any one else."

"Do you remember anything that occurs when you are hypnotized?"

"Sometimes; not often, though."

"Did you go anywhere else with Mr. Stilton Monday, than to the —— House?"

Norman remembered the —— House as a small, third-class affair near the bank.

"No, I generally come out of the trance very soon, but I was so tired that day that Mr. Stilton left me at the Hotel to get rested. He always pays well for my time though."

"Well, I want you to go on an errand with me. I have asked the foreman's permission, and I will pay you well for your time. Put on your hat and coat at once."

Norman was startled when he looked at him after he had donned these garments. Certainly Dubray would be easily mistaken for himself for the hat concealed the upper part of his face and head where the strong points of difference lay. They went at once to the Bank and

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

The ability to relax the tension of work is as important as concentration.

1899 Bicycles Down to $8.25.
Men's and women's new 1899 model bicycles are now being offered at $8.25 to $22.75, and sent to anyone anywhere for full examination before payment is made. For catalogue and full particulars, cut this notice out and mail to Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago.

A CHILD'S All-Wool SUIT $1.90



Made from remnants of our fine $2.00 and $3.00 a yd. cloth which was left over from our Great Tailoring Department. $1.90 don't pay for the cloth, to say nothing of the making and linings. Order today before they are all gone.

REMNANTS will accumulate in our large tailoring store—do what we will we can't avoid them. Upon taking stock recently we found on hand over 1300 remnants, in each of which there was enough material to make a child's suit. The cloths consisted of genuine **imported all wool English cassimeres & Scotch cheviots**—all medium & dark shades, in beautiful mixtures & neat check patterns. None of the cloth cost less than $2 and up to $3 a yd. We made every remnant into knee pants suits (like cut) **to fit boys from 4 to 15 years old,** and now offer them for the wonder price of $1.90. The suits are splendidly tailored, perfect in fit & style and are guaranteed fully worth double our price.

SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. with choice of shade and pattern; give age of boy, state if large or small for age and we'll send the suit C.O.D. by express, and allow you to try it on the boy before you pay one cent. If just as represented and worth double our price then pay the express agent $1.90 and express charges. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory. **Write for free cloth samples of suits for boys from 4 to 19 years old.**

$1.90

THE LOUIS R. VENON CO. 155 W. Jackson St. Chicago, Ill.

summoning the paying clerk to the window, he asked him if this were not the man to whom he paid the amount demanded by the forged check. He was so struck by the resemblance that he declared that it might be possible.

"I was hurried at the time," he said, "but I noticed Mr. Stilton here at the same time, on the opposite side of the room, and as you and he went out together I was sure it was you."

Then Dubray was taken to the —— House close by and recognized as having come there frequently in company with a man whose description tallied with that of Stilton, and as having been there several times on the previous Monday. When, still accompanied by Dubray, Oliver Norman entered the parlor in the Parker House where Theo and Miss Leon awaited him, they both cried out in astonishment at the resemblance. Norman, as he entered had observed two gentlemen acquaintances of his own and had desired them to wait for him. After mutual explanations of the success of their morning's work, the young ladies proceeded homeward, and with his gentlemen friends and Dubray, Norman called for a private parlor, where with the young Canadian's consent, Norman hypnotized Dubray and in the presence of witnesses; a full account was obtained from the subject, how he had personated Oliver at the bank, drawn the money for the forged check which money he gave to Stilton, who accompanied him at a little distance so as not to lose hypnotic control.

There was no trial of Ambrose Stilton. Mr. Staples was too honorable a gentleman to keep in partnership with such a treacherous person. Fortunately his house was doing so well that he had already been approached by a wealthier man who wished to go into the business; and as soon as Stilton's capital was withdrawn that of the new partner replaced it.

When Oliver Norman's invention was patented and applied, the house did a still better business.

When a year or two later Norman's book had made him widely known as an authority on Psychology, Theodora became his wife. She never went back to the printer's case, but she remained the friend of all working women, and is still active in organizing all sorts of schemes for their uplifting and enlightenment.

THE END.

THE UNFINISHED ATTIC.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JAMES BUCKHAM.

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I DO wish you would have a floor laid in the attic, Henry," said little Mrs. Harding to her husband. "It is such a ticklish job walking on the beams, when I want to store something away. I am in constant dread of stepping off and going through the plastering."

"It wouldn't make much of a hole if you did, Allie," laughed her husband. "But I must confess that the job ought to have been done long ago, and it would have been, if I could only remember to speak to the carpenter. But I'll do it this week, sure as the world. I don't see why the builders ever left that attic without a floor. Of course, you can't walk the beams when you want to put things away. It's absurd. Just remind me, every morning when I start out, and perhaps I can think to speak to Jepson."

Mrs. Harding did remind her husband, faithfully, every morning, when he stooped to kiss her good-bye; and still Jepson, the carpenter came not. Whenever Mr. Harding remembered his commission, something else, very imperative, made it impossible for him to see Jepson; and when it would have been perfectly convenient to do so, he never thought of it. And so the unfinished attic continued to go without a floor.

The Hardings lived on the very outskirts of the suburbs, in one of those trim, shingle-jacketed little houses, so like a jaunty woman in a new tailor-made suit. They were fully a quarter of a mile from a neighbor, on a street not yet accepted by the city—a street as crude and unsightly as a great shallow trench cut through the fields. And yet, there on the very edge of the scrub-oaks they had all the modern conveniences—except an attic floor. The contractor had shaved his outlay a little and augmented his profits by slyly omitting that; and it wasn't discovered, or fairly appreciated at least, until the Hardings had bought the house from the land company and were in possession.

They were a fairly well-to-do young couple, prosperous and contented, and their house and its furnishings showed it. Taste and thrift and modest luxury looked out from every wide-paned, crystal window. The parlor was a little bower of satin, lace and Turkish rugs, and the dining-room had a set of solid mahogany furniture, while the sideboard groaned with solid silver wedding gifts. If a burglar should peep in at the dining-room window! With this dreadful thought in mind, Mrs. Harding not only drew the curtains of that room, every morning when her husband started for his office, but put the choicest of her silver into a carpet-bag and hid it in the remotest corner of the attic. In order to do this, she was obliged to step from beam to beam for the entire length of the house. No wonder she longed for an attic floor, though she had grown almost as daintily expert in her beam-walking as the airy lady who sways on the slack rope at the circus.

Nineteen-year-old Nora in the kitchen, Mrs. Harding felt, was no protection against the always-haunting burglar; and yet it was a comfort to have somebody in the house with her. She would really have preferred to do her own work; but it would have been dreadful to be "all sole alone" there, on the edge of the oaks; so she had engaged Nora, chiefly for company.

It was a bright, crisp morning in February when the long-expected actually happened. A burglar walked coolly into the remote pretty house, in the middle of the forenoon, when nearly every able-bodied male resident for miles around had been swept "in town," like steel-filings toward a magnet. Indeed, so bright and cheerful was the sunlight, and so homelike and familiar and reassuring everything about her, that Mrs. Harding found it hard to realize she was actually confronted by a burglar, even after he politely, but firmly, asked to be accommodated with such portable valuables as might be in the house. He carried a big sack under his arm, and might have been a junk-collector, for aught that outwardly appeared. It is so difficult to even imagine a burglar, divested of the mysterious and awful circumstances of night, dark-lantern, and revolver.

Mrs. Harding was just returning from the attic, whither she had, as usual, borne her carpet-bag of silver, when she met the burglar coming in at the front door.

"Come with me, then," she replied, calmly, when she had learned his amazing errand. "I always put my silver up-garret for the day," she added, frankly, making room for the burglar on the stairs, and signing with ladylike self-possession, that he should precede her. "Of course, you will not expect me to bring it to you, but I will show you where it is. Turn to the right, please, and at the end of the hall you will find the attic door."

Could it be possible, she asked herself, that this woman, speaking thus without a tremor, and coolly directing a real burglar to her precious wedding gifts, could be timid little Mrs. Harding? Yet she was conscious of a prickling sensation all over, and knew that it was only because the terrific excitement ran so deep, that it lacked the ordinary and expected manifestations.

All the while her quick wits were playing in scintillant flashes about the problem, how to outwit the burglar. She was conscious of a secret and crafty delight in the thought of the floorless attic; though not until the burglar stood hesitating before the gridiron of beams, did the invoked inspiration come to her.

"There is the bag, at the end of the attic," she said, stopping, with her head just above the top of the stairway. "You must get it, if you want it. I am not telling you a falsehood. The silver is in the bag."

The ring of truth was in her voice, and not even a burglar could doubt it. The man hesitated no longer, but stepped confidently forward across the beams. Then did Mrs. Harding's suppressed inspiration explode in sudden action.

"Now then, Tiger! Take him!" she exclaimed, sharply. "*Sic*, boy *sic!*"

It had been one of Mrs. Harding's maiden accomplishments to bark and growl like her pet dog, greatly to that creature's excitement; and now a perfect volley of most startling realistic yips, snaps, and curdling growls crackled at the burglar's heels. He started, twisted convulsively upon the beam, toppled, swore, and plunged downward with one heavy foot and leg clean through the snapping lath and plastering!

Down darted Mrs. Harding to the hall below with the swiftness of a bird. She flew to her room, and with feverish haste tore the corded belt from her morning wrapper. Then back into the hall again, where the burglar's leg was swaying helplessly, like an animated and very ugly chandelier, from the shattered ceiling. In an instant the plucky little woman had reached up and tied the belt around the burglar's ankle. Then she hung down upon it with all her might, and screamed for Nora—who was already screaming herself in the lower hall.

"Run for help, Nora!" cried Mrs. Harding. "There's a burglar in the house, and I'm holding him!"

With a horrified gasp at her mistress' temerity, Nora was off for the nearest house. By a rarely fortunate coincidence, the grocer was just delivering an order there, and bidding Nora keep on to the drug store, and have them telephone for the police, he drove his horse like a whirlwind to the Harding house. Bounding up-stairs two steps at a time, he found the exhausted but determined woman still successfully resisting every attempt of the trapped burglar to draw his leg up through the ceiling.

"Let me take charge of the critter now, ma'am," panted the grocer. "Don't be afeard. The police will be here soon. By George!—excuse me, ma'am—but you're a brick!" And he looked admiringly at Mrs. Harding, who not only did not faint, but started promptly for the clothes-line, that the grocer might tie the burglar's leg to the banister.

While they were doing this, Jepson, the carpenter arrived. Mr. Harding had spoken to him that morning, and he had come to take measurements for the attic floor. So there were three men—including the burglar—in the house when the two policemen arrived, making in all quite a little male colony for a remote suburb, at noonday.

A little later, Mr. Harding arrived in hot haste. First he hugged his wife, and then he hugged himself. "Ah, Allie!" he said, complacently. "What if I had been cursed with a reliable memory."

THE TRUE STORY

OF THE

Confiding Woman, the Cynical Man and the Bearded Lady.

The scene is a comfortable sitting-room. Mr. Lovegood is buried in a book and his wife is scanning the advertisements in the evening paper. Suddenly Mrs. Lovegood says: "Say! dear," in a voice that makes Mr. Lovegood almost drop his book. "Well, what is it?" he says with a laugh. "Another real genuine bargain offer?" "I don't know that you'd call it that," his wife replied. "But, yes, you might," she continued, "for it is a bargain offer of free medical advice." "Let's hear all about it, my dear," said her husband. "But you know I'm a little dubious about your bargains. Your 'swans so often turn out to be geese.'" "Well then, it's an offer by a woman (physician) to give free medical advice by letter, and it says it's better to write to a woman because a man can't understand a woman, just because he's a man, and it says too that it's just revolting to go to a man physician anyhow." And Mrs. Lovegood stopped because she was out of breath.



"I bet you," said her husband, "that the advertisement don't say she's a woman physician." "Why, yes it does," said his wife, as she looked at the advertisement again. "Well, no, I guess it doesn't *say* she's a physician, but it means the same thing for it says that 'it is a woman whose experience in treating woman's diseases is greater than that of any living physician, male or female.'" Mr. Lovegood chuckled and said: "That's what I love about you, my dear. You are so ready to believe without question when there's a bargain in view. If you were a little fish, I'd catch you every time with a rubber worm if I put a bargain sign above the hook."

"Oh! do be serious for once," cried Mrs. Lovegood. "Then, to be serious," he replied, "this woman doesn't claim to be a physician. She would claim to be a physician if she could, because she is trying to convey the impression in every other way than by a direct claim that she is a physician. She is not therefore a physician and can never have practiced medicine. Yet not being a physician and therefore never having practiced medicine, she claims to have had 'experience in treating woman's diseases, greater than any living physician.' Now the question is, since she never practiced medicine, where did she get that experience?"

"Well, that is so," Mrs. Lovegood somewhat reluctantly admitted, "but then she *is a woman*." "I'm not so sure about that even," said her husband. "It looks to me as if some *man* was 'working' the women with the 'bearded lady' act.

"But suppose it is a woman there's your dressmaker, who is also a woman, not to speak of Mrs. Flannigan, the cook's mother, who is a really excellent woman. If a woman's not a doctor then one woman's as good as another and it's foolish going to a stranger hundreds of miles distant for the sympathy which friends at home can better supply. And as for a man not understanding women's diseases because he's a man, that is the cheapest sort of claptrap. Who have done the doctoring in the past two thousand years? The men. Where must the modern woman physician go for her knowledge? To schools taught by men and books written by men. If this woman, who claims men don't understand woman's diseases, should ever take to the study of medicine, she'd have to be taught everything she knew by the men who don't know anything according to her opinion. The problem is, how a man who doesn't know anything about women's diseases can teach a woman to know everything about them. I give it up."

"Then you wouldn't write?" said Mrs. Lovegood, doubtfully.

"Write! What for?" said her husband. "Write to a *woman?* What's the use of writing to a woman? If you want to write, write to a *doctor*. The first question in sickness is not a question of sex but a question of medical ability and qualifications. There's no sex in medicine anyhow. If you want to write why not write to a man of medical standing, a specialist like Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y. You know he's a regularly graduated doctor. You know he's a good one and at the head of a great medical institution. You know he's had thirty years' experience, and has, with the aid of his staff of nearly a score of skilled specialists treated more than half a million women, who freely confided in the integrity of the *man* and the skill of the *physician*. President Garfield once said of Dr. Pierce: 'He is one of the best men in the world, and he is at the head of one of the best medical institutions in the world.' There's nothing new about this free consultation by letter, my dear, it has been a feature of Dr. Pierce's practice for years; in fact, for more than a quarter of a century. Write to him because you'll get the best advice and no string tied to it, so to speak."

THE USUAL WAY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ANNIE D. KELLAR.

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THE Library Association must raise money if the Library were ever to become a reality; so, having heard that the "unusual" fad succeeded elsewhere in collecting stray dimes, the feminine population of Blount severally took up the Unusual Professions for Women.

Blount is small in size, but large in the spirit of progress and the tireless energy which is the natural birthright of every Westerner. A mining town, situated in a green valley of the Rocky Mountains, it is held in communication with the Range by a six-mile line of railroad, over which the men and boys every work-day morning are carried to their work in the mines and returned at evening.

By day then in the valley you find a community of only women and children; for those men not at the mines go to the cattle ranches below, excepting the mayor, postmaster, editor and grocer and he is just one all-around man.

But to return to the unusual professions.

One women declared herself family tonsorial artist and her husband sat for her to experiment upon his classic countenance and to draw—full price. Another gave out to hold flower auctions every Saturday. One proposed this and one that unusual thing and everybody was pleased. Clearly the Public Library was by all reasonable means what everybody meant to have.

Then it was too bad that Maude Harper should fall upon such an *un*-reasonable "profession" as she did. Mrs. McReady went farther and said "unmaidenly." Mrs. McReady was the social leader in Blount and of course knew. Trust her for that!

Miss Harper announced herself under the head-line of "prices reasonable," as "dog-killer, cat-killer, etc.," concluding in the third line, "until further notice." The *Blount Beacon* kindly published free all advertisements in furtherance of the good cause, and this unfeeling announcement led them all at the top of the page. It was quite too much! So Mrs. McReady, in her handsomely-furnished dining-room, expressed herself as she glanced at the paper before her.

"Monstrous! To think of killing cats and dogs!" and her hand went forth in caressing gesture toward her own lovely Duke stretched out on the mat. "I shall protest, and so will all the right-seeing women. The Humane Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals must take steps."

Hereupon she rose and, in illustration of her closing words, walked majestically from the room. Left alone, the other occupant of the room laid aside his paper and crossed over to examine the article that had aroused the indignation of his brother's wife. This interested young man was Harold McReady, who, at twenty-three, was junior partner in the firm of McReady Bros., whose large mining and ranch interests were constantly increasing. He lived at the ranch and had come in that morning on a matter of business.

His idle curiosity was excited to know the name of this "young woman, pretty and good," so described by another of her sex while in a most uncomplimentary mood. He felt that she must be quite out of the common. Glancing at the name, he put down the paper in a business-like way, and, with his brother, set off for the ranch.

Mrs. McReady was a veritable type of that class of short-sighted women who leave their homes and children mainly to the care of the servants and leave no detail of a public work to pass unnoticed. Bearing out the latter statement, she was within the next half-hour, in virtue of her office as president of the H. S. P. C. A., giving orders for a special meeting of that society.

The secretary ventured a remonstrance in Miss Harper's behalf. But the president while impressed with Miss Harper's personality must perform her duty, and that evening the little milliner received the following letter:

"MISS HARPER, DEAR MADAM:—It being the sense of this society that we can not stand idly by and permit or encourage the wholesale slaughter of dumb companions toward which humanity is enjoined ever to be merciful, we respectfully urge that you appear before this society on Wednesday at four p. m. to show just cause for your extraordinary course in directing the minds of your townspeople to the *killing* of their domestic pets, etc.

"Meanwhile we demand a stay of proceedings in your new line, and your 'further notice' to that effect in Wednesday's *Beacon*.

"With every expression of personal esteem,

"Yours for the protection of birds and beasts."

H. S. P. C. A.

Maude had had a good day at her new trade and was in high spirits as she made out her library account that evening; seven chickens and three snakes, beside the mouse that Mrs. Smith caught in a trap and couldn't kill. And an order for a cat to-morrow.

Then she read her letter. Her face was a study in the red and white that blended at last in a healthy pink color as the emotions gave way to reason. A line of defense as long as a lawyer's plea arranged itself in her mind and at length resolved into a very wise plan.

The next day she killed the cat as per order.

Noon of Wednesday came and with it the *Beacon*. Eager hands tore it in their haste to point out the "further notice" which, however, was not there. So the members went early to the Society's rooms to hear her defense.

* * * * * *

Maude stood at her shop door thinking how hot and dusty it was and wondering how Editor Taylor could think of the twenty-mile drive he started upon two hours since. She looked at her watch. The hands pointed to four. Her cheeks flushed and tears suffused her eyes so that she hardly discerned the form in the road before her sending up a cloud of dust. At last she made it out, and with an outcry sprang back into the shop. She had never seen a mad dog, but that galloping figure in the dust she knew for one. Not a man in town to give the alarm! She snatched something from beneath the counter, paused an instant for self-control, then on her wheel sped after the rabid beast. Women had seen their threatened danger and she saw them tearing into houses and barring doors. Straight ahead moved the cloud until the pursued and the pursuing were but a block apart. Then the dog turned south and Maude turned in the same direction, hoping to course half way around the square and meet him before he reached the corner, and struck into the schoolhouse road now filled with children on their way home.

Unnoticed, their movements were watched in agonizing suspense by a horseman from the south, more desperately, if possible, making for the corner and shouting as if wild.

For he saw what neither had, as yet, a baby playing in the road. He gave the child up for lost just as the wheel dashed in and faced the brute. "She can not escape, herself," he thought, as he cocked his revolver and spurred his horse again, "but in the time so dearly gained I can save the boy."

An instant later came the report of a revolver, but it was not his. The dog fell dead, and Harold realized that he would have been too late to save his brother's child.

All unconscious of her baby's peril, Mrs. McReady neared home. The meeting had been dismissed early as Maude was noted for punctuality, and it was decided that she meant to ignore orders. A committee would wait upon her.

Mrs. McReady heard the report and hastened to the scene. Her gratitude, remorse and sense of her own narrowness cannot be described. Maude stayed for tea, and Harold told how, out at the ranch, horses and cattle had been bitten, and of the stampede that followed. He left his men shooting the miserable animals while he rode after the dog.

That evening Mrs. McReady forced a fifty-dollar banknote into Maude's hand, in trust for the library, quoting from the contract: "All gains derived on or before November first of this year, from the exercise, investment or appreciation of these unusual measures are pledged perpetually and without reservation to this Association." So Maude entered in her book after the date: "From Mrs. James McReady, in appreciation of one dog killed this Wednesday at four o'clock P. M., fifty dollars."

One month after, Harold surprised Maude by saying abruptly, "I am strictly a man of business. I have known you but part of a day. Your deeds prove you courageous and magnanimous, your tears prove you womanly. You are not nervous or superstitious for you will kill cats. Your style of beauty and manners just suit me. You know something of my prospects. In short, Miss Harper, I love you. Will you marry me?" She thought he had gone crazy until he added, "That was the speech I refrained from making a month ago, only that you might have an opportunity of finding whether you could care for me. Maude, what is my answer?"

"I am a woman of business," she tried to say steadily, "and you know the appreciation clause of my contract."

"But *I* cannot be handed over to the library!"

"No—at least, I hope not," and then, blushing furiously, "there will be the ring."

"Will be! oh—" but she stopped him there and it was settled to defer the matter until after November first.

A few months later the sound of brass bands mingling with a most whole-souled charivari in true western style proclaimed this train of circumstances to have culminated in the usual way.

IN THE DARKNESS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY DAVID H. TALMADGE.

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LARRY Dugan lay on his back in the long grass and winked at the stars. How long he had been there he knew not. He remembered vaguely the wild rush across the open towards the Spanish block-house in the face of a withering fire; and he remembered how the man in front of him had dropped, throwing up his hands as if astonished; but beyond this memory was a blank. What had happened? Had he been shot? Or had his mind gone ahead of him in the excitement of the charge, owing to the inability of his legs to keep pace with it? This seemed reasonable, the more so, because so far as he was able to judge his body was simply tired; he felt no pain such as he had understood was felt by the wounded—nothing but a sense of the utmost fatigue and contentment that he could lie and rest undisturbed.

"Praise hivin," said he aloud, "thoo yez've come back agin! Oi wor wantin' to think a bit."

He was addressing his consciousness, which to his disordered vision appeared as a soldier without body or limbs, its uniform flapping ridiculously as it circled dizzily above his head.

"What wor it now," he asked perplexedly, "thot Oi wor wantin' to think av before yez come whin Oi wor winkin' at the stars? Who am Oi anyhow? Will, will, will!"

He laughed softly, and attempted to sit up, but was too tired.

"Oi'm not knowin' at all what me name is—mebbe 'tis Gin'ral Shafter, Oi dunno, and there's a woild search goin' on this minute to foind where Oi am."

He lay with his eyes closed for a time. When he opened them again the bodyless soldier was gone. He uttered a great sigh of relief.

"'Tis gone back to where it belongs, behoind me eyes," he thought; "now Oi'll be thinkin' what it or Oi wor wantin' to think."

Then he groaned, for with full consciousness had come pain. A light wind stirred the branches over his head, and he felt its cooling touch upon his face. Somewhere—it seemed to him it might come from the sky—he heard the voice of a sentinel challenging.

"'Tis some poor felly givin' the password to hivin," he decided after listening intently. "Oi wonder now——"

Suddenly he became aware of a rustling in the grass a few paces from him. Then he distinctly heard a moan. It was very dark there in the wood—a darkness which the stars seemed to intensify, and the sound was not an inspiriting one to a boy who was barely past the age of belief in ghosts. There was the suggestion of a tremble in his voice as he softly called:

"Hillo, there!"

In response came another moan.

"Say somethin', can't yez?" he called again, louder and with a note of terror in his voice. "If yez be somebody Oi can be talkin' a bit wid Oi wants to know it quick, and if yez be somethin' ilse Oi wants to know it quicker. Till me what yez be now thot's a good felly!"

The grass rustled again, and there was a sound as of some great fish, freshly caught, floundering.

"Holy mither," exclaimed the boy, "'tis comin' this way!"

He essayed to rise, but was unsuccessful. He managed however to lift himself upon one elbow, and thus he waited, his eyes straining and his breath coming in gulps. At length the sounds terminated in a thud close beside him. He put out his hand cautiously.

"Brass buttons!" he ejaculated, breathing more freely.

"Who moight yez be now, old felly?"

"My name," came the reply weakly, "is Price, of the 89th——"

The revelation was not completed. Price was evidently in the last stage of exhaustion.

"Gerald Proice av Middletown?"

"Yes; and who are you?"

Larry did not reply. Memories were surging through his brain now—memories that were bitter—of a girl with blue eyes and light brown hair whom he had loved honestly; and of a rich man's son who had enticed her in her simplicity to follow him, leaving the humble lover forlorn and desperate. After a time the bitterness seemed merged into pity for the girl, and then everything passed from his mind but consciousness of the pain in his back. He lay there many minutes, counting involuntarily the throbbings, and looking at the stars with staring eyes. The voice of Gerald Price aroused him.

"And who are you?" it repeated.

"Oi—Oi don't roightly know," replied Larry, "but O'm thinkin' me name's Dugan."

"Larry Dugan?"

"Yis."

A long, long silence.

"Larry."

"Yis?"

"I'm about finished, I guess. Will you tell me what's wrong between you and Molly Burke?"

"And the loike av yez ask thot?"

"I do, for I wish to know."

"*Yez!*"

"Yes, I; for I know the poor girl is almost broken-hearted over your coldness towards her."

"Oi—Oi thought yez had taken her from me."

"I never thought of such a thing. I never

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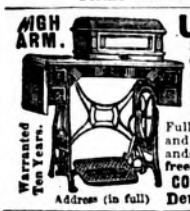
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spoke to her before the day she came to our office because she—she was in trouble on account of money matters. I—I helped her, and she was grateful. She——"

"Yis, she walked wid yez on the strate and smoiled on yez, and Oi froze her, for Oi wor hot and unraysonable wid jilousy. And she wor innocint!"

"As innocent as a child, Larry; and she loves you I am sure."

Larry was sobbing.

"And—and Oi lift her widout aven tillin' her good-boye. 'Tis a riptile Oi am, and squirmin' wid agony at the thought av it! Oi'll be goin' to her—Oi'll be goin' to her——"

The pain in his back was like the cutting of knives and the seering of hot irons now. The bodyless soldier was again circling above his head. It rose and sank—sank down and down until he felt its icy touch upon his forehead. Then it rose higher and higher, out of his sight. Price crawled closer to him, speaking. There was no reply. He found a cold hand and clasped it tightly.

"Heaven forgive me for that lie," he muttered, and fell asleep.

They found them there in the morning. The face of Larry bore a look of infinite peace, but the face of Gerald was drawn and distorted.

"One," said the sergeant, "was shot in the spine, and his death was painless; the other was wounded in the breast. Poor chap, how he must have suffered!"

A SON OF THE GODS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY E. W. E. THOMPSON.

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HE paused irresolute that morning at the threshold of his fate; there in the September sunrise with the purple vintage of vine clad hills all about him and the glorious river murmuring on and on about his feet. Had it been two or ten years since he had asked the beautiful but unsophisticated blacksmith's daughter to become his wife? Each day, each hour she had taken on the richer, deeper tints and the sweeter fragrance of the unfolding rose.

Isabella, her dear old-fashioned mother had christened her—one loved to speak the name slowly, reverently, the name of this wildwood flower—even now robing herself for the bridal. The world to her an enigma; a path of thorns as yet untrod by tender feet. "Is—a—bella," he repeated the name to convince himself that this was no *ignius fatui* of the imagination. *His* was a remarkable voice! As the name, *her* name died on the morning air it grew faint and fainter still in that breath of *agony*, felt, but indescribable!

Years ago when he had first known this girl—he was only in the formative state. She responded, not to the soul senses of his being, but to some kinship in nature. He reasoned not beyond his love for physical perfection. As he swiftly ripened by contact with the busy world, of which he would be an important factor, the self-imposed thrall galled him.

Leland Langsdale is a picture, a study, and a problem. A moment ago he paused, reflected, hesitated. Now at the marriage altar he holds her hand—Isabella's—repeats the vows—they sound like distant echoes in ears unsensed to sound. Her face is radiant! He is hers, hers forever! A chain round his heart, a ring on her finger. He is touched deeply by her supreme confidence in him. His splendid dark eyes respond to hers with a half sad, a half tender smile. God helping him he will make this little girl happy! Perhaps her heart and brain will respond to his more masterful personality.

* * * * * *

Isabella Langsdale has been twenty years a wife.

"Mother," says a girlish voice, "read father's speech! The papers are full of it! Colonel Trent says in his editorial:

"'No such masterful and eloquent argument has ever been presented at our Bar. We note with pride the growing fame of our fellow citizen. As a candidate for Supreme Judge he would hon——'"

"Nonsense, Lela! Why waste time on newspaper editorials? Your father is spoiled now by flattery. What is vanity but a beggar's staff?"

"What, indeed!" sighed Lela Langsdale.

Isabella Langsdale is not changed. The association of twenty years with a superior mind has unavailed. The omnipotence of clothing the body instead of the soul ruled her. Sometimes surprised, sometimes frightened at the deep lines which had worn into her husband's face. He spoke to her always of late with a broken voice. What did it mean? Presently to Lela:

"Your father has given us every reason to be proud of him. The toil and moil of life is not interesting to me." She bent lower over a fichu of rare lace. "Have you forgotten Miss Collon's musicale and the Rand reception Thursday afternoon and night? *Our* position is something as well as your father's!"

A vision! His face—her husband's—glorified with a patient resignation. In that moment she saw down into the depths of two existences that should neverhave been moulded into one. "Less Fame and more Fortune—more Pleasure." The mother spoke in a manner which troubled her daughter.

"Your father has a natural hatred for society. I wish I could be free to live as I believe in living——"

"An empty life," returned Lela, who was jealously fond of that father whose presence to her was sunshine, happiness and overmastering joy.

The reply was a laugh as evanescent as the broken wing of a butterfly. She recalled her husband's words: "Fashion is fleeting, Isabella; beauty of soul is eternal, the same through all ages." More and more lately had he felt that need of sympathy which was wanting in his life.

Leland Langsdale had tried to love, cherish and make happy this woman—his wife. Sometimes he felt that his soul was growing attenuated in her presence. There was no sensation of things spiritual or intellectual in her atmosphere. He had borne this terrible disappointment silently, bravely in the past; so would he bear it patiently in the future.

Thursday night. The Rand mansion was ablaze with light; the jewels of fair women shone proud with the presence of noble men. Strains of music float from arch, doorway and bower. Voices have a happy ring. Faces smile. Leland Langsdale's tones alone are deep and grave. He rouses himself with a supreme effort. "This is folly! I must go and hunt Lela."

Madame Rand speaks: "I have been looking for you." Her keen eyes reading the misery in Langsdale's soul. "It is dreadful not to know what to do with people—Cousin Jaqueline is here and she never would assimilate with the crowd. Do we disturb you?"

She approached a slender figure clad in black, standing reading by a side light.

"Miss Herse, the Major's warmest friend, Mr. Langsdale. I trust you will find something in common."

The hostess swept away with a bland smile. The figure in black bowed, then was silent.

"Prof. Lloyd's Editorpha, have you read it?" Duty impelled him to break the silence. "That is a wonderful book. I am reading it a second time."

A wave of color swept over Jaqueline Herse's face; she was warm yet with the enthusiasm of that story. Langsdale compressed his lips. Here was a woman with soul! One who *felt* something of the life around her!

His own care-worn cheeks glowed. He was lost for a moment in thought. Then he talked to Jaqueline Herse with an eloquence which startled and interested her. "In the scheme of human conditions the master condition of all" is that inward something which calls for sympathy on the part of another. "The gust that blew love's candle out" may change to some favoring wind, reviving the flame, causing it to glow and burn indefinitely. The horizon had lifted—there was a ray of light as they stood there discussing a story which had vibrated and thrilled through the soul of each. For that brief hour pettiness, selfishness, falseness, convention;—the tears of

"Some divine despair,"

had all at once become wreathed in smiles. Leland Langsdale was enjoying that hour—the years had dropped away!

The life blood of an intensely human heart had all at once come back to him! Had the development of his doom been for a moment suspended? The music, the revelry of the dancers, awakened him from reveries intellectual, conversation congenial. Jaqueline's face had more than once lighted up gloriously at some word fitly spoken. Formally, gently, he said good-night and sought his daughter.

Never had womanhood seemed so sweet and precious to him as it did now. Sympathies had been awakened he thought long since dead. Miss Herse had given indication of deep and hidden feeling. Feeling which had in it no trace of sentimentality. How congenial his toil in the after days! He had shut his heart long ago, he thought, to human affection, yet never for a moment disloyal to his wife. He had been ever on his guard against wounding her, yet the inner chambers of his heart were empty as sounding echoes.

In his office the next day was an unbidden guest. One hour's experience had so unconsciously ungirt him, the long-suffering, self-confident man drank of infinite gladness, a gladness he dared not grasp. Work, hard work, had brought success. He had won battles over himself. But, ah! a *new* and silent foe, a strong adversary—who would win?

As family lawyer to the Rands he remembered that he had heard of Jaqueline Herse and some trouble that she had had about an estate. Should there be a tangle about it Mr. Rand would consult him. He unreasonably hoped that Jaqueline Herse would never cross his path again.

The stress of a life pain lay heavy upon him. With these thoughts he went to Court that day to defend a murderer. Such a speech on the theory of *self defense* had seldom been heard anywhere! The Jury, as a man, responded, *won* to every sentence! He broke the lock and key of his own pent up feelings, pouring them into the cause of his Client. To-day he fought as he never had fought before for a fellow mortal's liberty!

"Choose Leland Langsdale as counsel. Your case is complicated. Three suits will be necessary. Better see him without delay."

Jasper Rand's wish must be Jaqueline Herse's law. There was no reason for refusing as counsel the great lawyer whom she had barely met. One whose probity and capabilities were so widely acknowledged. Silent for a moment, then she advanced to her cousin.

"I am grateful Cousin Jasper, but perhaps——"

"No *perhapsing* about it," broke in this intensely practical man. "I promised your father to guard your interests. We'll bring things out all right my little kinswoman. I—I—loved your mother Jaqueline; you are very like her." Jasper Rand with an effort continued: "We're going to win on the cause and the merit of our lawyer, Jaqueline. He carries everything before him."

Full of girlish simplicity was Jaqueline Herse—a strength, too, that resisted this fascinating personality, Leland Langsdale, for her legal adviser. Just then there was a war of voices outside: "Edmonds acquitted! Langsdale's speech would have cleared any man!" Why should these words strike Jaqueline Herse like a blow? *Why indeed!* The words riveted themselves on Jasper Rand's mind. "Yes, we will have Langsdale. I will go now and bring him in for consultation!"

She was alarmed at her own feeling! Yet why avoid a man who could never be anything to her? Well under control she held herself when they came in. Langsdale trembled a little, yet with the air of one determined to get through this examination, allowing no outside thoughts.

Leland Langsdale touched Jaqueline's heart and soul as never touched before—with a sanctified touch that none but her God should ever know. This man with the patent of nobility upon his brow was the husband of another woman. She would never suffer herself to love a man she had no right to love!

That night she cried out: "*I will not impoverish the story of my life by any unworthiness of mine!*" and fell fainting on her pillow.

* * * * * *

Eight months later Leland Langsdale in his office yielded himself to thoughts introspective and retrospective. "*Going away to-morrow. My God, how can I let her go!* In my adversity she came; in my soul's bitterest hour; since then the accidental nearness of her presence has filled my heart with joy."

His head sank and he moaned aloud! He roused himself:

"She will come to-day for settlement. But no, her uncle is ill." Had not her face been pictured on his brain and heart forever?

A footfall sounded! He met Jaqueline Herse calmly—she was a part of his life but—ah, she must never know! He must not forget himself in this parting interview. George, the trusted servant of the Rands attended her and waited in the ante-room. His "Sorrow's crown of sorrow" would indeed be in "remembering happier things." He felt the "Mella Miseria" of his wailing soul come up from the brink of the stream on which he stood.

He held the contrary tendencies of his nature well in leash. He would rid himself of the potent charm of this woman's presence.

Cousin Jasper was to have attended to all this; Jaqueline hated the details and formalities of law. Her claims against Thurston March had all been allowed, every suit gained.

"Where do you go Miss Herse?" He would purchase the length of her presence there by some conversation.

"To South Carolina for the winter; then to England." How her heart leaped as she answered him. "I thank you for myself and for Cousin Jasper."

She stepped forward, laid the roll of money, Leland Langsdale's fee, upon the table.

"Pray keep the money Miss Herse!" he cried impatiently. "I could not take it!" His sorrow, his love, was about to break its bounds!

"Mr. Rand has placed me under obligations to him and his that I never can repay. This service to both of you was a pleasure—let it be un-marred by thought of gain!"

"I thank you!" said Jaqueline Herse in a voice hoarse with emotion.

"Take this money—if not for yourself, for some one who needs it——"

She was going now. "*Stay!*" he cried, "Miss Herse—Jaqueline—we—we must say farewell!" Reverence and sorrow was commingled in his tone. "Pardon, pity me! I—O God—I have tried to hold fast to my duty! You—you have helped me! Helped me—as—no—other woman could—and—would; for—this—*God bless and keep you forever!*"

In another moment Jaqueline Herse was gone!

* * * * * *

They found him the next morning his head prone upon his office table! A smiling face, the lines of care and pain gone. For tired heart, brain and hands no farther catastrophe! He had passed to that country where pure love is found and not lost!

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The remedy is odorless and tasteless can be mixed with coffee or food and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. The remedy contains nothing that could possibly do injury. It is simply an antidote for the poisons of tobacco and takes nicotine out of the system. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. The remedy is called Tobacco Specific and a free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co., 284 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, O. This will help any woman to solve the problem of curing her husband, son or brother of a habit that undermines the health leaving the body susceptible to numerous lingering and dangerous diseases.



This Cut is 1-2 Actual Size of Watch and Chain.

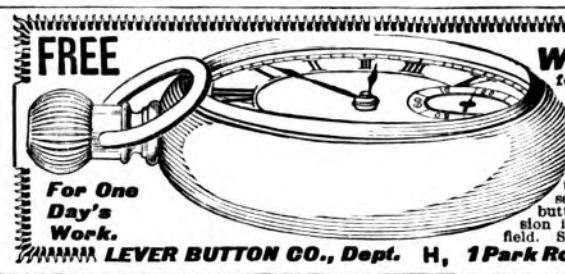
Watch and Chain FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

We send this Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm to Boys and Girls for selling 1½ dozen packages of BLUINE at 10c. each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, postpaid, and a large Premium List.

No money required. We send the Bluine at our own risk. You go among your neighbors and sell it. Send us the money that you get for it and we send you the Watch, Chain and Charm, prepaid.

This is an American Watch, Nickel-Plated Case, Open Face, Heavy Bevelled Crystal. It is Guaranteed to keep Accurate Time, and with proper care should last Ten Years.

BLUINE CO., Box 418, CONCORD JUNCTION, MASS.



FREE

For One Day's Work.

WE GIVE this fine WATCH and a chain and charm for selling 2 doz. gold-topped, enamel-backed Lever Collar buttons at 10c. each, or a lady's watch and guard for selling 3 doz. *No Money Required, you run no risk.* Write and we send the Buttons, post-paid (with one extra to pay your postage), and our big Premium List. Sell the buttons, return money and we send watch *free of all charge.* Unsold buttons returnable. Liberal commission if preferred. Be the first in your field. Send your name and address to-day

LEVER BUTTON CO., Dept. H, 1 Park Row, New York, N.Y.

Eight months later Leland Langsdale in his office yielded himself to thoughts introspective and retrospective. "*Going away to-morrow. My God, how can I let her go!* In my adversity she came; in my soul's bitterest hour; since then the accidental nearness of her presence has filled my heart with joy."

His head sank and he moaned aloud! He roused himself:

"She will come to-day for settlement. But no, her uncle is ill." Had not her face been pictured on his brain and heart forever?

A footfall sounded! He met Jaqueline Herse calmly—she was a part of his life but—ah, she must never know! He must not forget himself in this parting interview. George, the trusted servant of the Rands attended her and waited in the ante-room. His "Sorrow's crown of sorrow" would indeed be in "remembering happier things." He felt the "Mella Miseria" of his wailing soul come up from the brink of the stream on which he stood.

He held the contrary tendencies of his nature well in leash. He would rid himself of the potent charm of this woman's presence.

Cousin Jasper was to have attended to all this; Jaqueline hated the details and formalities of law. Her claims against Thurston March had all been allowed, every suit gained.

"Where do you go Miss Herse?" He would purchase the length of her presence there by some conversation.

"To South Carolina for the winter; then to England." How her heart leaped as she answered him. "I thank you for myself and for Cousin Jasper."

She stepped forward, laid the roll of money, Leland Langsdale's fee, upon the table.

"Pray keep the money Miss Herse!" he cried impatiently. "I could not take it!" His sorrow, his love, was about to break its bounds!

"Mr. Rand has placed me under obligations to him and his that I never can repay. This service to both of you was a pleasure—let it be un-marred by thought of gain!"

"I thank you!" said Jaqueline Herse in a voice hoarse with emotion.

"Take this money—if not for yourself, for some one who needs it——"

She was going now. "*Stay!*" he cried, "Miss Herse—Jaqueline—we—we must say farewell!" Reverence and sorrow was commingled in his tone. "Pardon, pity me! I—O God—I have tried to hold fast to my duty! You—you have helped me! Helped me—as—no—other woman could—and—would; for—this—*God bless and keep you forever!*"

In another moment Jaqueline Herse was gone!

* * * * * *

They found him the next morning his head prone upon his office table! A smiling face, the lines of care and pain gone. For tired heart, brain and hands no farther catastrophe! He had passed to that country where pure love is found and not lost!

$1800. FOR FOUR TOMATOES



This is a wonderful Tomato. Immense size, best quality and will astonish all who grow it. Color bright red, very solid, few seeds and free from rot. Fruits ripen from July 4 till frost. We paid $500. for one weighing 3 lbs. 3½ oz., and Offer $1800. Cash for fruit this year as follows: For one weighing 4 lbs. $1000. 3½ lbs. $500. 3 lbs. $250. 2½ lbs. $50. See what you can do. Instructions sent with seed.

$300. FOR 6 NAMES!

Catalogue for 1899 is beautifully lithographed in colors and is full of new things. We have a new Cabbage, Lettuce, Aster, Poppy, Pansy and Sweet Pea. Not one has been named and we will pay $50. Cash for a name for each.

Special Offer: We will mail one packet Mammoth Tomato also one packet each of the 6 nameless novelties and catalogue with instructions for 25c. If you send Silver or M. O. we send 50 Summer Flowering Bulbs for the ladies.

FAIRVIEW SEED FARM Box 26 Rose Hill, N.Y.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this big 225-lb. new 1899 pattern high grade RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, $13.00 less the $1.00 sent with order, or $12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16½x18x11, top is 42x23; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamentations and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamented base. Best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you $25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least $10. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc), CHICAGO, (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)



ACME BIRD

WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

REDUCED TO $3.50.



To place our new improved Thermal Vapor Bath Cabinet in every home, we send them complete for 30 days, with alcohol stove, directions, formulæ, to any address, upon receipt of $3.50 each. Head steaming attch., 75c. extra. ORDER TO-DAY. Ours the best Cabinet made. Rubber-lined. Latest improvements. Cures without drugs a hard cold with one bath, rheumatism, lagrippe, female troubles, all blood, skin, kidney and nervous diseases. Guaranteed as represented or money refunded. Recommended by best physicians. We're responsible. Ship promptly. Descriptive book FREE. Special wholesale prices to agents. Address the m'f'rs, Toledo Bath Cabinet Co., Toledo, Ohio. The above firm are reliable, and do as they agree.—Editor.



10 CENTS PAYS FOR our big package of new and useful goods; best and biggest value ever offered; contains one package new and beautiful Silk Remnants, one Gold Pl. Ring, one Gold Plated Watch Chain, one Rose Pin, Crystal Top Scarf Pin, Great Parlor Game, one Flag Pin, Punch and Judy whistle, Magic Gold Tube, together with a 25 ct. cash value coupon and our illustrated magazine, 3 months. All mailed, postpaid, for 10 cents. Address, C. R. VICTOR & CO., Box 1856, NEW YORK, N.Y.



DON'T SET HENS The Same Old Way. The Natural Hen Incubator beats the old plan 3 to 1. 100-Egg Hatcher only $2. Cheap in price but Mighty as a money maker. Thousands in use. Greatest invention in poultrydom. Special Introductory Offer. Agents wanted. Send your address for catalogue to day. Address Natural Hen Incubator Co. D 26. Columbus Neb.



700 Sample Styles of Silk Fringe Cards, Hidden Name Cards, Love Cards, Scrap Pictures, Games, Puzzles, Album Verses, The Star Puzzle, 13 Puzzle, and Agents Sample Album of our latest Cards. Send a 2ct. stamp for postage. BANNER CARD CO., CADIZ, OHIO.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME; $1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.



696 New Sample styles of Envelope Silk Fringe CARDS, &c., 20 New Songs, 100 Rich and Racy Jokes, 1 pack Escort Cards, 1 pack Fun Cards, 1 pack Acquaintance Cards and Standard Beau Catcher. ALL FOR TWO CENTS. CROWN CARD CO., Box 17, CADIZ, OHIO.

$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE



for selling only six of our Electric Porous Plasters. We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, etc., and will send you six of our 25c. Plasters which you are to sell and return the money ($1.50) to us and we will send you, all charges paid, the elegant Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand $5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use. Every Woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address

THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta Maine.

Among Our New Possessions.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



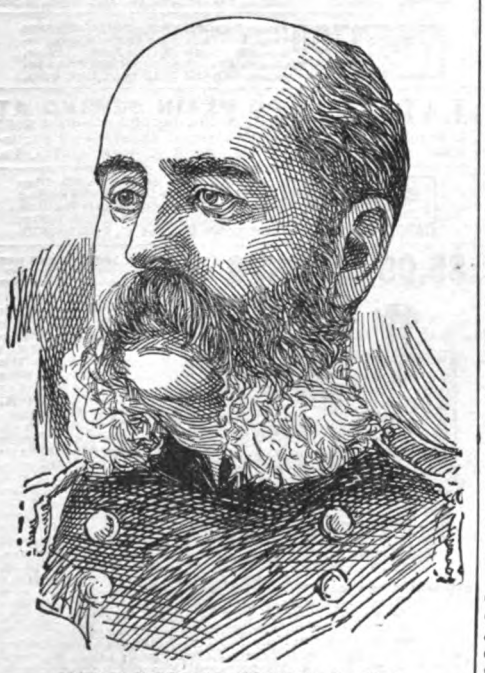
THE greatest interest has centered over the occupation of the Philippines by our army. At first our people were disposed to believe that the restoration of peace would cause all trouble in the archipelago to cease and that soon a form of government would be given the Filipinos better than anything that had ever been enjoyed by them; and that whatever might be the final disposition of the islands our people would not relinquish them until their citizens were able to act as a strong modern government. It has never been supposed for a moment by extremists that the United States could drop these islands or even attempt to give them back to Spain until some stable government had been formed capable of administering the law with home rule.

It has always been a strange fatality of savage or semi-civilized races to respect only strength. They invariably look on toleration and avoidance of war as timidity or cowardice. Since the Americans have been in Manila there has had to be a constant restraint on our soldiers to prevent outbreaks against the Filipinos, who little appreciating the real cause, became daily more arrogant and insulting, looking upon this self-restraint of our soldiers as timidity and fear of their own prowess. Aguinaldo, the Filipino leader, undoubtedly has been aided with arms and ammunition from outside and has turned from an ally into an open enemy of the Americans. The fact that Gen. Otis has not allowed insurgents in Manila, caused them to locate their lines in a semicircle all around the city. Here in full view of our men they have thrown up forts and breastworks and have mounted cannon in an advantageous position. It is now known that Spanish officers have assisted them in the disposition of their forces.

The relations have been at a point of tension for weeks, but Gen. Otis, in command of our troops, undoubtedly had secret information of Aguinaldo's intentions, for events proved that his army was drilled and in constant expectation of a sudden attack. Thus matters stood on February 4th; the Filipinos inflamed and desiring to attack the Americans with pent-up anger waiting the first shot which would give them the opportunity to thrash the savages. Meantime, a Filipino named Agoncillo had been sent to this country by Aguinaldo and after remaining in Paris until our peace commissioners had returned home he sailed for this country. In Washington he had attempted to be recognized by the President and the State department, but had failed. The ratification of the peace treaty was to be voted upon the 6th. It is believed that the attentions paid this emissary had turned his head and that hearing but one side he believed the country was against the treaty, and that a decisive act would cause Americans to raise a popular cry to abandon the islands.

Whatever his conclusions, there seems to be no reason to doubt that he cabled Aguinaldo to force a fight in order to influence the Senate, and after doing so took the quickest route for Montreal. It is also evident that though followed by secret service men, he was allowed to pass out of the country unmolested rather than to raise any possible international questions. His junta of natives remained in Washington and were allowed to stay unmolested provided they did no overt act as enemies of our government.

On the night of Saturday the 4th, three Filipinos approached our outpost and once or twice ran by the guard, each time being challenged. At length after being commanded to halt, the guard fired at them killing one. This was the given signal for a general opening of fire from the Filipino entrenchments. All night the Americans held their position unable to tell where to fire. At daybreak the army was ordered to advance which was done with a rush. The Americans carried everything before them although a few of the most ignorant remained fighting desperately. Incredible as it may seem these were men armed with bows and arrows, as seen in the initial cut, who bravely stood up to be mown down like grass by the deadly machine guns. In every part of the field the Americans were successful, driving the poor Filipinos before them like rabbits, and sweeping them out of their entrenchments and forts in a rout. The American loss was forty-two killed and about



MAJOR GENERAL ELWELL S. OTIS.

one hundred and fifty wounded and missing, while the natives lost all of five thousand.

After the first battle Aguinaldo's soldiers were in a demoralized state, and although their numbers gave them courage, the Americans steadily pushed them aside and continually widened their line of action. Aguinaldo, meantime, went through the farce of declaring war against the United States. In this campaign the losses of the insurgents have been terrible, while the dead and wounded of the Americans have reached a comparatively small number. It is probable that the Filipinos will break up as an army and will take to guerilla warfare among the mountains and jungles. This will mean a long contest. General Otis is pursuing Aguinaldo, hoping that with his capture the backbone of rebellion will be broken.



GENERAL EAGAN.

Major General Elwell S. Otis, the American commander, has been selected as the military governor of the Philippines, and will receive his formal appointment probably before the close of the present campaign. He has been in chief command of the military occupation of the islands since the departure of General Merritt, who was called to Paris to aid the Peace Commissioners. General H. W. Lawton, who distinguished himself in the Santiago campaign, has already sailed for Manila and on his arrival will relieve General Otis of command of the troops, leaving him free to act in his administrative office.

At this time a few words about the insurgent leader, Aguinaldo, may not be out of place. As a young man he attended the Pontifical university at Manila and was a bright student, but commanded no attention until 1888 when he committed the unpardonable sin against Spanish law in Manila of joining the Masons. Masonry is prohibited in the Philippines and under the ancient law a Mason is a criminal, it being lawful to torture or even execute him. While he was not tortured he was annoyed in various ways by the authorities and finally went to Hong Kong, where he associated himself with a number of exiles. He studied military learning and passed months watching British and other troops drilling and manoeuvering. It is said at night he studied the lives and wars of Napoleon, Von Moltke, Washington and Grant with keen intelligence. By the time he left Hong Kong he was thoroughly familiar with this subject. Accounts differ as to his service; some saying he was a good soldier, others that he would never drill. Afterward he shipped in the Chinese navy and served under an American officer there for several months.

There is little to be said about Cuba and Porto Rico, both of which seem to be entering into the process of reconstruction without much difficulty. The greatest annoyance is the attitude of the soldiers of the Cuban army, who expect the United States authorities to pay them the amounts due for back pay. As Gomez has undertaken to adjust this trouble, it is to be hoped it will soon be out of the way.

A notable expression regarding the relations existing between Great Britain and our own country, is that which comes from Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of the treasury and government leader of the House of Commons, in a speech delivered at Manchester, Eng., last month, in which he declared that the greatest safeguard of peace was probably mutual comprehension and sympathy between nations.

There might be difficulties in realizing such a comprehension even among the most civilized nations, he went on, but surely there was one country that was in every way fitted to understand and sympathize with Great Britain. There was a shower of applause when he added that he need not say that he meant the United States. Some foreign cynics professed to believe that the existing relations between the two countries were a growth of the moment, depending upon a transitory community of interests, with the disappearance of which their friendship would disappear. His observation of the world had taught him that cynics were always wrong.

During the dark days of the Venezuelan controversy, Mr. Balfour said he had expressed the conviction that the time would come when all English speakers and sharers in Saxon civilization would be united with a sympathy which no political controversies could permanently disturb; and he was glad he now saw such sympathy established by the marvellous change in relations which for more than a century had been disturbed by uninterrupted discord. If that sympathy was of the character he believed it to be, there could not be a greater guarantee of the future peace, progress and civilization of the human race. The opinion of this progressive and scholarly English statesman meets with ready response on both sides of the Atlantic, and is in keeping with the general tenor of the public utterances of leading speakers in both countries.

The most important question that has been before Congress during the past month was that of ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain. It took precedence of every and all other questions. In the Senate and out of the Senate; through the press; in general discussion, it was the one absorbing topic.

The press of the country, with but a few solitary exceptions, urged senators to vote for ra-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9.)

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ONE YEAR'S FREE TRIAL

WE WILL SHIP A CORNISH PIANO OR CORNISH ORGAN ANYWHERE UPON THE DISTINCT UNDERSTANDING THAT IF IT IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO PURCHASER AFTER 12 MONTHS' USE, WE WILL TAKE IT BACK. It would be impossible for us to make public this unique CORNISH PLAN of doing business were it not backed up by the strongest evidence of our absolute responsibility. The Cornish American Pianos and Organs are warranted for twenty-five years, and with every warrant there is our personal guarantee endorsed by a business reputation of nearly fifty years, and plant and property worth over One Million Dollars. Our success in the past has been mainly owing to the confidence placed in us by the public, and we have a quarter of a million satisfied patrons bearing testimony to the honesty of our methods and the perfection of the Cornish American Pianos and Organs.

MENTION PAPER.



FOR FULL PARTICULARS OF THE WORLD FAMOUS CORNISH PLAN and for a complete description of the instruments made by us, see OUR NEW SOUVENIR CATALOGUE for 1899, handsomely illustrated in colors—the most comprehensive musical catalogue in the trade. The frontispiece is a masterly reproduction in fac-simile of an interesting oil painting, designed and executed for us by an eminent artist, representing "SAINT CECILIA AND THE ANGELIC CHOIR." This beautiful catalogue is sent FREE CHARGES PREPAID, and we also include our novel reference book, "THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE." CATALOGUE, BOOK AND OUR LATEST SPECIAL OFFERS FREE.

A prompt response to this advertisement will secure a DISCOUNT of $10.00 on the list prices as quoted in our 1899 Catalogue on any CORNISH ORGAN or $20.00 on the list prices if you buy a CORNISH PIANO.

PIANOS FROM 155 DOLLARS With the Cornish Patent Musical Attachment, which correctly imitates the Harp, Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Etc. This patent can only be had in the CORNISH PIANO.

REFERENCES. Our bank, your bank, any bank, or any of the multitude of patrons who have purchased millions of dollars' worth of instruments from us during the past fifty years.

Send for particulars of the Cornish Co-operative Plan, showing how you can secure a Cornish Piano or Organ FREE.

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MAKERS OF HIGH GRADE AMERICAN PIANOS AND ORGANS.
ORGANS FROM $25.00



30 Days Free Trial

IN YOUR OWN HOME. NO MONEY REQUIRED IN ADVANCE.

Buy direct from factory and save $10.00 to $25.00. Don't pay agents and dealers large profits.

$45 Arlington Sewing Machine, high-arm $14.50
$35 " " " " $12.50

These machines have all the latest improvements light running, noiseless; adapted for light or heavy work, self threading shuttle, self-setting needle, automatic bobbin winder and complete set of best attachments free. 10 Years written warranty. We are headquarters and have all makes and kinds in stock from Baby Machines at 95 cents to the best high arm.
Over 50 different styles including machines as low as $8.00

A first class high-arm machine at $9.25. Large illustrated catalogue and testimonials free. Write today for special freight offer.
Address (in full) CASH BUYERS' UNION,
158-164 W. VanBuren St., Dept. B-5 Chicago, Ills.



$1.95 BUYS A $3.50 Suit.

2,000 CELEBRATED "KANTWEAROUT" double seat and double knee. Regular $3.50 Boys' 2-Piece Knee-Pant Suits going at $1.95. A NEW SUIT FREE for any of these suits which don't give satisfactory wear.

Send No Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state age of boy and say whether large or small for age, and we will send you the suit by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to suits sold in your town for $3.50, pay your express agent our special offer price, $1.95 and express charges.

THESE KNEE-PANT SUITS are for boys from 4 to 15 years of age, and are retailed everywhere at $3.50. Made with double seat and knees, latest 1899 style as illustrated, made from a special wear-resisting, heavy weight, ALL-WOOL Oakwell cassimere, neat, handsome pattern, fine serge lining, Chayles patent interlining, padding, staying and reinforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor-made throughout, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of. FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of Boys' Clothing (suits, overcoats or ulsters), for boys 4 TO 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 90C. Contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.

Men's Suits and Overcoats made to order from $5.00 up. Samples sent free on application. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)



FREE! FREE!!

Any one can earn this Beautiful Gold Plated Hunting Case Stem Winder Watch, Charm, and Chain (guaranteed) a perfect timekeeper, by selling our ELECTRIC LAMP WICKS. They can be sold in a few hours. They are practically indestructible. No trimming; no smoke; no smell.

OUR GRAND 90-DAY OFFER: Send your name and address, and we will send you 20 wicks, postpaid; you will sell them at 5c. each and remit us $1, and we will mail to your address, free, a Beautiful Gold Plated Watch Chain and Charm.

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WANTED Man or lady to travel and appoint agents. Estab. firm. $50 per month and expenses to start. P. W. ZIEGLER & CO., 232 Locust St., Phila.

AGENTS' BONANZA. Buy direct from manufacturer; we make 50 new fast sellers that sell to everybody at sight; large profit; free samples. FACTORY, Dept. C., 22 Mechanic St., Newark, N. J.

Cured of Drinking

A Woman's Secret Method Whereby She Cured Her Husband Who Was a Terrible Drunkard.

Mixed a Remedy in His Coffee and Food and Cured Him Without His Help or Knowledge.

It takes a woman to overcome obstacles. Mrs. Chas. W. Harry, 920 York St., Newport, Ky., had for years patiently borne the disgrace, suffering, misery and privation due to her husband's drinking habits.

Learning there was a cure for drunkenness which she could give her husband secretly she decided to try it. She mixed it in his food and coffee and as the remedy is odorless and tasteless he never knew what it was that so quickly relieved the craving for liquor. He soon began to pick up in flesh, his appetite for solid food returned, he stuck to his work regularly and they now have a happy home. Mr. Harry was told about his wife's experiment and he gives her the credit of having restored him to his senses. It is certainly a remarkable remedy, cures a man without his effort, does him no harm and causes him no suffering whatever.

Dr. Haines, the discoverer, will send a sample of this grand remedy free to all who will write for it. Enough of the remedy is mailed free to show how it is used in tea, coffee or food and that it will cure the dreaded habit quietly and permanently. Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 63 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, and he will mail a free sample of the remedy to you, securely sealed in a plain wrapper, also full directions how to use it, books and testimonials from hundreds who have been cured, and everything needed to aid you in saving those near and dear to you from a life of degradation and ultimate poverty and disgrace.

Send for a free trial today. It will brighten the rest of your life.

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!



To introduce our new line of Quadruple Plated Silverware we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful gold lined fluted top Quadruple Plated Silver dishes FREE to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quadruple plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than $1.00 or $1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of eatables either on dining or side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 37c. for a year's subscription or will send both dishes, all charges paid, if you remit 62c. for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich. Address



SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

VESUVIUS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



VESUVIUS is again at its frolics, and a mountain at its frolics is no pleasantry to those who live at its base. The dwellers about the sunny Bay of Naples take no delight in the grandeur of an eruption of Vesuvius. For years there will be no reason for fear, the mountain will give no evidence of its mighty power, save as the cloud of steam above its summit testifies always to the heat within. Again, as at the present time, all its old craters will open with tremendous bursts of flame and flow of molten lava. It is a grand and terrifying spectacle. Great masses of rock are hurled hundreds of feet in the air and streams of lava flow down the mountain sides until they appear red with the burning material.

During its quiescent periods the journey to the summit of Vesuvius is an interesting trip, seldom missed by tourists to Naples. At one time a railroad carried passengers nearly to the summit, but that has been destroyed by recent lava flows and one must take to mountaineering on foot, or on donkey back, the former being the more desirable if one will keep his mind in good order to appreciate the wonders at the top.

About two thousand feet above the sea the roads lead over a spur of the mountain on which is built the Observatory, an illustration of which is shown in the initial, in which are the museum, containing the seventy minerals thrown out by Vesuvius, a scientific library and apartments for the scientific instruments, especially the electro-magnetic seismograph which records the time extent, and direction of every movement of the earth's crust.

From the balcony of the Observatory one may begin to realize what an eruption means, for all about are the flows, ancient and of recent time, stretching away to the plain below. The flowing character of the molten lava, like the waves of the sea, or like eddies and pools in a river, may there be seen where they took their shape under white heat, but now are cooled to solid black rock. Around this spur of the mountain, in 1872, rolled two streams of lava leaving the Observatory like a lighthouse on a storm beaten reef, while the inmates of the house underwent a process of slow roasting, the mercury rising above one hundred and seventy degrees Fahrenheit. Fortunately the fires abated before the endurance of the scientists was exhausted.

In some places during the ascent one passes small craters from which is flowing hot lava, which is dark and stringy and hardens on top as soon as it comes in contact with the air; and if one makes a misstep and plants his foot upon this seemingly solid earth he is reminded of the deceptive crust of snow on our New England fields, with a difference of a few hundred degrees in temperature.

Gaining the summit through the fine black sand of the path, one feels inclined to doubt the assurance of the guide that the volcano is not an eruption. From far below come rumblings and groanings, sharp reports and hissing sounds, together with clouds of smoke and steam which blind and choke you. It has been well said that of all the grand and wonderful sights in nature the crater of a volcano is probably the most impressive. Certainly nothing could inspire the mind with a more intense feeling of awe than this great crack in the earth, which "half reveals and half conceals" the wonders and mysteries within. Crater means "mixing dish" and surely no better term could be applied. It is a thorough mix up, and the human intelligence halts, spellbound, at its brink. Oh, to solve the mystery of its depths! Does this hole three hundred feet wide connect with secret passages far below, leading into the interior of our great earth? No voice speaks from the cloud that rises, no presence tells of the mysteries below, and the scientist and the sight seer alike are unable to solve the riddle. This crater is said to be five or six hundred feet deep, and at its bottom is a lake of melted rock which one can hear surging and writhing in its lonely depths. When this lava rises to the top of the crater, forced up by the tremendous energies of the internal forces of the earth, an eruption occurs. Often the crater and everything about the mountain will change so much during an eruption that even one perfectly acquainted with the mountain will be unable to recognize his old haunts.

The history of Vesuvius is interesting. Far back in pre-historic time a volcano existed on



MT. VESUVIUS FROM POMPEII.

its present site which was probably twice as large as the Vesuvius of to-day. With a mighty explosion which can only be imagined, the upper half of the cone was blown off, leaving a large valley surrounded by more or less precipitous sides, like the craters of Kilauea in Hawaii or Crater Lake in Oregon. Mt. Somma, the lesser peak of Vesuvius, is a remnant of this wall. After centuries had passed and the Greeks had, unsuspectingly, built their cities and vineyards on its sunny, green slopes, the fires returned to their old haunts and a new cone arose from the old valley, sweeping away the old walls, all save Mt. Somma, and building itself up to the height of three or four thousand feet above the sea. This was in 79 A. D. As the clouds of steam rose from the crater they were condensed in torrents of rain, which mingled with the black volcanic dust and rolled down the mountain sides, wiping off from the face of the earth three cities, Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae. More than eighteen thousand people lost their lives. No lava issued from the mountain at that time, but the excavations at Pompeii show that the cities were buried under many feet of volcanic dust and ashes. After this terrible eruption (which has been considered the greatest calamity of historic times), the mountain was quiet again for centuries. Its sides were covered with grass and trees as in the olden days and the old terror was forgotten. In 1631 came another great convulsion. The volcano sent out material with such force that vast clouds of dust and stones were carried for hundreds of miles, the finer particles falling to the earth even in the Adriatic and at Constantinople. Streams of lava dashed down the mountain sides into the sea and thousands of homes were destroyed. Since that time the mountain has never been entirely quiescent and the tragedies which it has caused are too many to enumerate. At each eruption the mountain is built up a little higher and the sea is forced out a little. The number of cubic feet of lava thrown from the mountain since 79 A. D., would be expressed with no less than twelve ciphers, enough in fact to build several modern cities.

The question is, where does all this material come from? Again we are confronted by a negative answer; again Mystery holds out its dim, grey finger pointing us on. All that the scientist can tell us is this: The interior of the earth is in an extremely heated condition; being subjected to great pressure it is a solid, superheated mass; the water percolates from the surface to a great depth and coming in contact with the heated interior, changes to steam and when it can no longer find room for its activity below, it forces its way to the outer world at the point of least resistance, carrying with it the solid hot rock which becomes molten lava when relieved of pressure.

Recently reports have come to us of the increased activity of Vesuvius, and the world will watch its movements with much interest, for it looks to Vesuvius as to a great actor. Whatever its action, it is always dramatic, grand, imposing, though its action seldom terminates in aught save tragedy and its rumblings foretell, to those who know it best, only sorrow and devastation.

The National Bank Redemption Agency.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE United States Treasury has one section which is entirely devoted to the redemption of national bank notes, and this is called The NATIONAL BANK REDEMPTION AGENCY. This, although carried on within the walls of the Treasury building, and in some ways closely connected with it, is, nevertheless, distinct from it. Its expenses are entirely paid by the banks themselves, which are yearly assessed according to the amount redeemed for each one during the past year. From these assessments are paid the salaries of the clerks, the stationery bill, and, in fact, every expense incurred by the Division.

To this Agency all the National banks, all over the country, send their worn out money, and have it exchanged either for new notes or for checks, as the sender chooses. Burned notes are also sent here, and are redeemed, should there remain the slightest mark to show what was their former value. The packages of old notes are given to expert clerks who sit in a long, narrow room, well lighted by large windows. Both doors and windows of this room are guarded by strong iron lattices; those at the doors fastening on the inside by a spring lock. In addition to these precautions against loss, a high railing within the room separates the desks from the aisle in which, alone, visitors are allowed inside the room. Most sight seers in the Treasury, however, are only permitted to peep at this work through the grated doors leading from the corridor.

In this room the money is counted with a rapidity which seems incredible to an outsider. Not only is it counted, but a counterfeit bill is instantly detected by these expert clerks, and removed from the package. Any failure to do this, or any miscount is charged, if detected, against the salary of the clerk. Each package is counted by three different clerks, and their accounts compared, before it is finally pronounced correct. Its number, amount, and some other information concerning it is then transferred to a slip of paper which is handed to the Chief of the Division. He signs it, and passes it on to a clerk in his room. This clerk registers the information in her book, and fills out a check for the required amount to be returned to the bank from which the worn out or ruined bills were sent.

The old notes are taken, still in original packages, and closely guarded, to the basement of the Treasury, and placed in the macerator, where they are speedily reduced, by boiling and chopping by knives, to a thick pulp. Of this pulp is made various fantastic forms, such as cats and dogs, which are sold as souvenirs to visitors to the Treasury.

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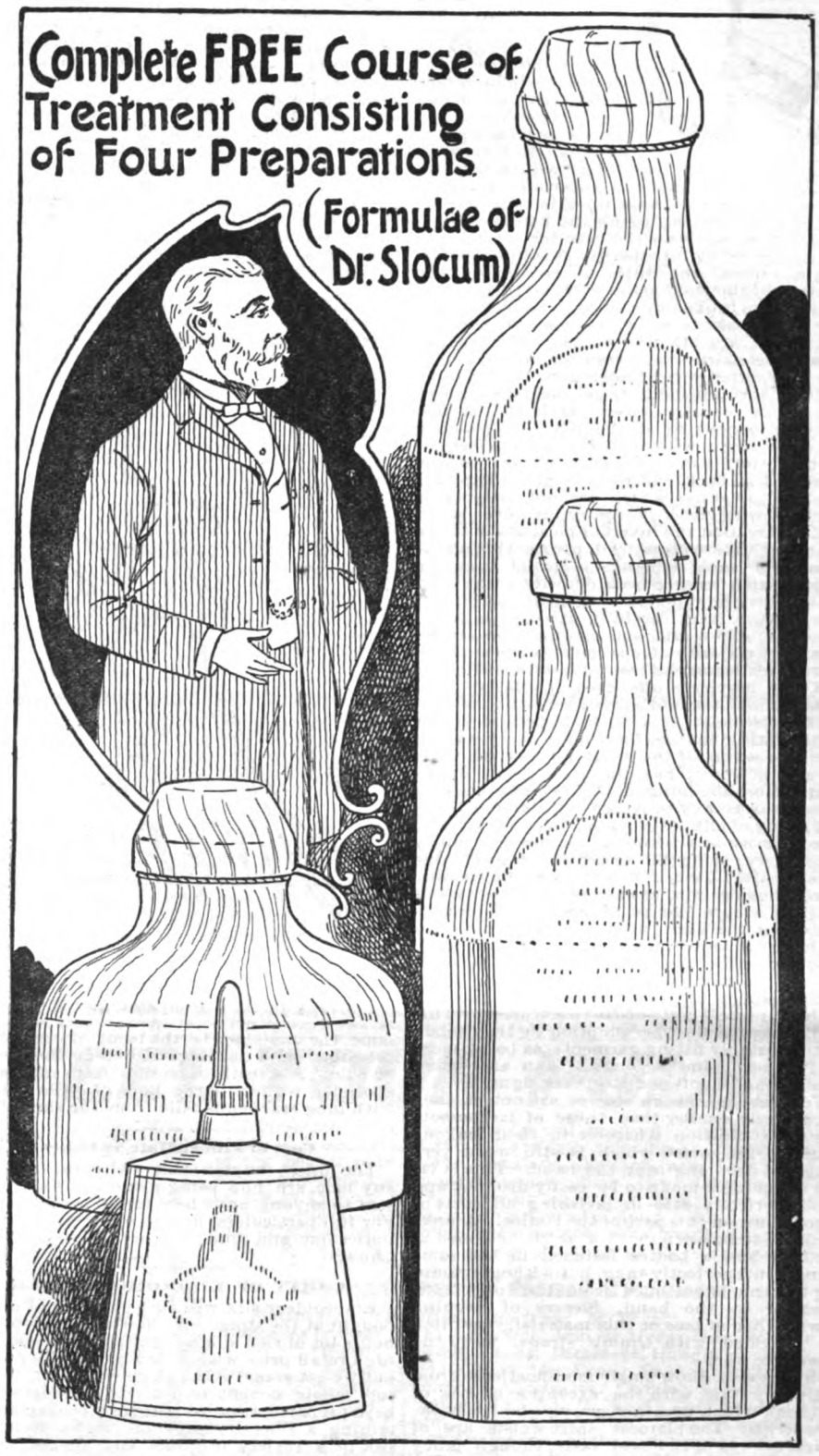
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These symptoms are proof that you have in your body the seeds of the most dangerous malady that has ever devastated the earth—consumption.

Consumption, the bane of those who have been brought up in the old-fashioned beliefs that this disease was hereditary, that it was fatal, that none could recover who were once firmly clasped in its relentless grip.

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Now known to be preventable and curable by following and practising his hygienic teachings.

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You are invited to test what this system will do for you, if you are sick, by writing for a FREE treatment to the Slocum Laboratories, New York City.

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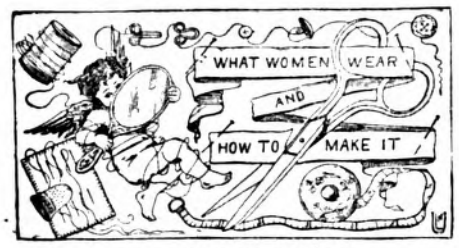
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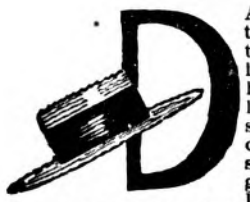
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



DAME Mode has destined the plump woman to utter extinction, unless she can so disguise herself as to give at least a semblance of the swan-like slimness now considered so necessary. The newest gowns are more sheath-like than ever, even the flare at the bottom being depressed considerably. While this mode is especially graceful, the gown, built on these lines, is considerably more of an undertaking for the amateur dressmaker, than has been the case for several seasons, there being no superfluous fullness which might conceal any little discrepancies. The contour of the fashionable skirt is, this season, very seldom broken by any, save flat trimmings, the flounce skirts which were so in evidence last season are altogether *passe*. One of the most novel skirts I have seen has no opening at the back, fitted very closely over the hips, the fullness springing out from the point where the placket usually ceases. It is gotten into through its opening at the left side, which is fastened snugly with tiny buttons set close together. Gold baby pins are used to close the skirt at the back, successfully too. Rare indeed are the skirts which are not fastened at the back with either button or pin—even when neither are used the inverted pleat fits over the "turnure" like a glove. Of course this plainness at the back demands a spring from the waist, which having been denied to many, by nature, may be supplied by a small bustle; but this must be very carefully fitted so as to fill the exact hollow without making one larger. The large majority of the new skirts are drop skirts, this being the case both with soft goods and the heavier stuffs used for tailor-made gowns.

There seems to be a decided preference for softly-fitting bodices for almost every style of gown, save that of the strictly tailorfied. The blouse, however, has almost entirely disappeared from the horizon, the favorite bodice I refer to, is usually provided with an easily fitted lining of silk, over which the thin wool or silk is drawn softly into shape, the only really fitted places being the under arm pieces. One lovely waist I have in mind, which by the way is of French origin, has the body of heavy silk in inch square blocks of green and brown, matching the skirt, fitting comfortably, over which is a loose, blouse-like arrangement of black chenille caught together in squares. Across the shoulders, back and front, like a bertha, are pendants of rich yellow lace, attached by small roses of lace embroidery. This bodice exemplifies the adoption by the French of comfortably fitting garments, as being more truly graceful and becoming than any which confines and so often distorts the figure.

Very few changes in sleeves are noted; they are scarcely smaller than those of last season, the only addition whatever in their makeup being at the wrist, which is still worn very long and drooping over the hand. This is far too becoming a mode to be easily dropped and one is perfectly safe in lavishing all sorts of decorations on this part of the bodice. A pretty sleeve to be worn with a skirt buttoned at the back and a bodice fastened in the same manner, fits perfectly snug, but without cramping the arm, is buttoned from the top of the shoulder to the hand. Sleeves of evening gowns when of lace or thin material, very often are provided with thumb straps, when no gloves are worn.

Shirt waists show small modifications from last year's style, with the exception of use of material, which does not provide for the bayadere stripe. The plainest shirt waists are of course always in the best taste, though fancy runs riot in all sorts of embellishments. The



WELL BUTTONED IN.

white shirt waists are to be very much in evidence and are this year exceedingly dainty owing to the amount of hand work put upon them, and it is no uncommon thing to see the entire waist made of hand hemstitched tucks or drawn-work.

Spring millinery is always fascinating, in as much as it always sets forth novel ideas, and this season is no disappointment in that line. My lady fair smiles sweetly upon hats tilting over the nose, or those flaring off the face; indeed, her affections were never more divided, both styles being bewitching and both usually suited to her, provided she arranges her hair afresh for each change of hat. The flaring hat can be worn successfully only with the pompadour, large or small to suit the face, and this mode of hair dressing is by no means *passe*, although the parted hair is again in high favor, waved loosely. For the pompadour there are the "rats" so necessary in giving correct bouffancy, and, when one's hair is thin on the top, the clever hairdresser has provided a waved covering of hair to be rolled over the "rat," a substitute for one's scanty locks.

A smart little hat is just finished, in scarlet straw, rolling sharply back from the face, the narrow brim at the back sloping over the hair, simply trimmed with slender curving wings of black, twists and knots of black velvet ribbon, and cut steel buckles. A pretty capote is built of cerise pink taffeta draped softly with embroidered white mousseline de soie and further embellished by a bunch of rich velvet roses, in violet, set at the left side. Crowns of all sorts of hats are made of leaves set over-lapping one another, with good effect.

The nattiest gown I have seen this spring was an Eton jacket, a style which has regained its old-time popularity. The material was smooth, light-weight broadcloth in a pale biscuit color, the skirt and edges of the jacket richly embroidered with a darker shade of heavy silk cord.

An attractive evening frock is set forth here, of soft china silk in creamy white, having an overdress of creamy lace, and soft bodice of the



A DAINTY EVENING GOWN.

same, the one-sided bertha being of canary velvet edged with quillings of orange mousseline de soie. A wreath of yellow roses covers one shoulder, while a large knot of yellow tulle, with long scarf ends falls from the shoulder.

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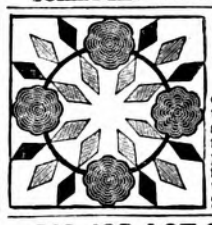
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Among Our New Possessions.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

tification. In many states the legislatures adopted resolutions instructing their senators to vote for ratification. They believed this action to be not only a patriotic duty, but a measure demanded by the highest and best interests of the nation. The leading minds of the country in the great professions and at the great universities and centers of learning, united in their demands that ratification of the peace treaty, pure and simple, was the one thing that could set our country right before the world. After that we could take the next step toward justice and national honor, whatever that step may be.

With the treaty ratified we were still in a condition of truce pending open war with Spain. No one in America wishes that war again opened. We believe that everybody in the United States wanted peace; that peace lies along one straight, plain path, the path of ratification.

The people of the country looked to their servants, the senators of the United States, to ratify the pending treaty of peace, and were not disappointed when the treaty was ratified by a vote of 57 in favor with 27 against. This was on Monday, February 5th. It is more than probable that the necessary two-thirds vote would not have been obtained had not Aguinaldo's forces assumed the offensive on the previous Saturday. This action proved the defeat of the opposition and gave enough of the wavering vote to secure the requisite number for a majority.

It has always seemed that no matter what might have been the opinions of the opposing senators on the future of the Philippines, there could be but one thing to do relative to the ratification of the treaty. Until this had been done, final or decisive action was impossible. The people throughout the country have learned to implicitly rely on President McKinley and stood willing to trust him in the matter, fully believing that he would take time and would not act until he was fully informed and then for the best interest both of the Filipinos and the American people. It is always unsafe to form rash conclusions and take hasty action where but little information on the subject has been obtained. Last May a great majority of our readers could hardly have told where the Philippine islands were, and it is senseless at this early day to think any of us have information enough to state what will be best as the final policy of our government.

In the heroic deeds of the Manila battle was the taking of the Santa Anna church by a daring charge of American soldiers. The Filipinos, like most Orientals, will fight in entrenchments; but do not like field battles. Most of the stone-built churches around Manila had been pierced by musketry firing. Successively these were captured by the Americans who drove the insurgents from these forts.

After hearing quantities of testimony the War Commission has handed in a report of its findings. While many ultra partisan papers have denounced it as "whitewashing," we feel that the members of the court are men of the highest honor and that whatever verdict they may have found will be in accordance with the facts as found by them. It is always much



SANTA ANNA CHURCH.

easier to make charges against people than to prove them. When the full findings of the court are made public, they will undoubtedly show themselves to be founded on good testimony and good reasoning. One of the most unfortunate episodes has been the remarkable utterance of Commissary-General Eagan and his prompt Court-martial. Gen. Eagan in his testimony before the Commission called Gen. Miles, the head of the Army, a liar in several ways. The public utterance of such a phrase against a superior officer called for immediate trial. A court headed by Gen. Wesley Merritt met and promptly found him guilty but recommended mercy. Accordingly President McKinley commuted his sentence to retirement for six years. Few of those who think the judgment not severe enough have any idea of the humiliation this sentence conveys to a man who has been so long in the service. Considering that criticism had driven him almost into an unbalanced state, undoubtedly the sentence was sufficiently severe.

The Home Market club of Boston gave the largest dinner ever held, in honor of the President on February 16th. The immense hall was packed with an immense audience of typical New England men, who applauded every utterance of President McKinley. The event had been watched with the deepest interest for it was realized that Mr. McKinley was to make the first public talk since the ratification of the Peace treaty.

The President said in substance that no man yet knew enough about the conditions to say what should be our final policy but that through no desire on our part the islands had come into our possession. As COMFORT has repeatedly pointed out those that criticise offer no solution of the problem. But Mr. McKinley in eloquent and well-chosen words told that we would not shirk responsibilities; that while we harbor no Imperialistic designs we intend that until ready for a permanent government ready and willing to stand alone, the United States proposes to hold the Islands in peace and order and clear the pathway of civilization in them. When Congress and the American people shall say what is best, then the administration will act; until then America will preserve peace and order. These and many other things were said by Mr. McKinley and we advise every COMFORT reader seeking knowledge on the subject, to obtain this speech and read every word of it, to gain a perfect idea of the tremendous problems our nation is called upon to solve.

This clear statement of Mr. McKinley and endorsed by the members of his cabinet, has been published all over the world. The American press as a whole cordially endorses the statement. Abroad different countries view the situation from different standpoints, but as a whole the press everywhere favors the position our President has taken relative to the Philippines.

OSTRICH FARMING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONE of the paying industries of California is that of ostrich farming. A few years ago ostriches were thought to belong exclusively to Africa, and it is only within the past twelve years that it has been found that they can be kept in this country.

Ostriches for breeding purposes are worth five hundred dollars per pair, although one suitable for a circus can be bought for one hundred dollars.

Mr. and Mrs. Ostrich are a very devoted and exclusive couple. It matters not whether their mating was their own affair or was managed by their owner, as soon as he has received his wife Mr. Ostrich claims her as his own, and is ready to fight for her to his last breath. Visitors to an ostrich farm will observe that, in order to preserve the peace, alleys six feet in width separate breeding pairs from each other.

When this loving couple have decided that the time has come for them to raise a family the male leads his wife to a secluded spot, and, falling flat upon his breastbone, he proceeds to kick out the sand behind him until he has a hole a foot deep. Then he turns about and kicks the sand from the other end of the hole until it is about three feet in width and one in depth. When he has the hole or nest of a size to satisfy Madam Ostrich she takes possession of it and lays an egg therein. Every other day she repeats the process until she has twelve or fifteen of the great white globes beneath her. Then she proceeds to sit on them, and for forty-two days thereafter she may be seen patiently squatting over them, her long legs trailing out behind her. In this work she is greatly assisted by the male, who "spells" her devotedly; but, manlike, he does *his* "sitting" at night when he would be squatting somewhere asleep where there were eggs to cover or not. From five in the afternoon to eight or nine in the morning he takes his turn on the nest, and again for an hour or so at noon.

When the first little chick announces that he wishes to "come out" his mother promptly assists him by crushing his shell gently with her breastbone. At last all are hatched, and a thrifty family of a dozen brown, fluffy baby ostriches, each the size of a pullet, reward their proud and happy parents. For a day or two they want no food, and only swallow pebbles and bits of stone, and by the time they are ready for better nourishment they are taken from their parents and placed in an alfalfa field. Here they grow like the weeds about them, a foot in a month in height, and at the end of six months they are ready to be placed in the common corral, and to eat from the community troughs the food furnished to the full-grown birds—sugar beets, grass and corn.

The feathers of the full-grown, male ostrich are far finer and more valuable than those of either the young one or the female. The feathers ripen every few months, and are worth about thirty dollars per plucking of each male bird. Once in nine months the bird is plucked, and the process is an interesting one to watch, although rather a dangerous one to the operators, as a kick from an ostrich is a serious matter. There is one saving clause in its effect, however. An ostrich can only kick forward, *never* backward, and he is also a "high kicker." Remembering these two things the men generally manage to keep out of the way of his formidable, two-toed foot. In catching an ostrich for plucking he is always approached from behind, and sometimes he leads his would-be captors a long, weary chase before he can be captured. Small dogs are of great assistance in this business; for, strange as it may seem, an ostrich is desperately afraid of a dog, and the smaller the dog the greater is his fear of him. Being, as has been said, a "high kicker," he cannot reach low enough to touch the little animal, and so has no weapon with which to fight him.

When the ostrich is caught he is taken into a small corral surrounded by a high board fence, a hood is drawn over his head and neck, and he is placed with his head in an angle of the corral fence. Here he is powerless to kick, and is held in place by a man, while the ripe black and white quills are cut from his wings with short, heavy shears. A stump four inches long is left by the shearer, and this is pulled out two months later to make room for the new feathers. After the shears have done their work the smaller feathers of the wings and the long white tail feathers are pulled and the work is finished. The body feathers are never taken. A gate in the corner of the corral in front of the ostrich is then opened, the hood is drawn from his head, and off he scoots like the wind, flapping his wings in high indignation at the treatment which he has received.

Anyone who chooses can keep ostriches. They are hardy birds, and require no more care than a horse or a cow. Their food, too, is comparatively inexpensive, as it consists of sugar beets, grass and corn; and they amply repay their owner for their care and keep.

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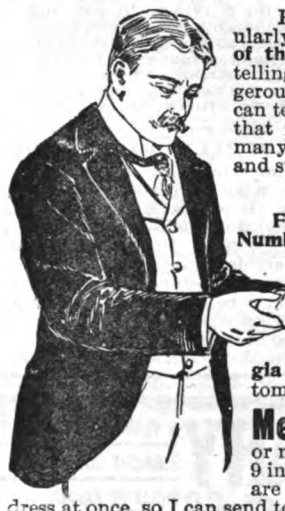


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WHILE there are some people who have a vague idea that coins issued 100 or 1000 years ago are worth fabulous sums, yet very few know that coins issued only a few years ago are at a large premium. For instance, the silver dollars of 1895 and many of the earlier ones. The first Columbian half-dollar, issued 1892, sold for $1,000. All the half-dollars from 1879 to 1890 are at a premium, also Isabella quarters of 1893, the old issue of the quarters and half-dollars of 1853, twenty-cent pieces 1876 to 1878; five and three-cent pieces of 1877; last issue of the two-cent copper and three-cent silver pieces; first issue of the nickel cents, all gold dollars and three-dollar gold pieces; all Territorial and California coins from 1849 to 1880, and thousands of earlier American and Foreign coins, Canadian especially. There is also a premium on some coins with **MINT MARKS O, S, C, D or CC;** also on fractional currency, colonial, continental and Confederate bills and old **POSTAGE STAMPS.** THE GLOBE reports that a coin was found in Galveston worth $5,000. THE NEW YORK JOURNAL says that a cent was plowed up at Aurora, N. Y., worth $1,200, and that Mr. Castle paid **$4,400 FOR A STAMP** found at Louisville, Ky. THE WORLD says: "Many people have become wealthy by looking after old coins and stamps." THE HOME JOURNAL says: "Coin and stamp collecting is a profitable business, as there are but few in it. The Numismatic Bank buys from Agents all over the country, and pays them big sums." Coins that are very hard to find in one section are often easily found in others. A Boston baker sold 116 coppers for $6,915, 29 silver coins for $4,713, and 4 gold coins for $1,700, and others have done nearly as well. MR. F. W. AYER sold recently a lot of stamps, collected since 1892, to Stanley Gibbons for **$250,000.** THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS says: "The Numismatic Bank is not only the largest institution of its kind, but as reliable, safe and trustworthy to deal with as any National Bank. The enormous business done by them is the result of **SQUARE DEALING** and liberality." Send two stamps for our illustrated circular on rare coins and stamps, which may prove to be your stepping stone to wealth and independence. **NUMISMATIC BANK, (Dept. C, Boston, Mass.**

FEEL YOUR PULSE



Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

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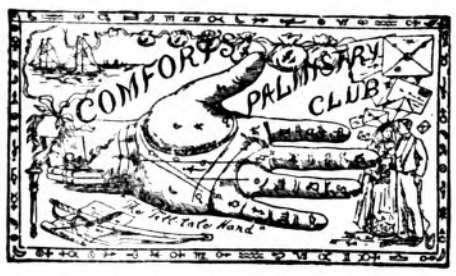
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"COMFORT'S" MODEL SYSTEM, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

A LADY from one of the Western States writes to ask of whom our Palmistry Club consists. Everybody, my friend, who has had his or her hand read in this column, and everybody who has procured and studied a copy of our Palmistry Guide. I presume there are others who are glad to see this question answered. Remember, to belong to the "Comfort Palmistry Club" it is necessary to become identified with it by sending your hand for reading, or at least by getting and studying the Guide, first, of course, remembering to comply with the conditions.

The same lady asks several questions which will interest all who are studying palmistry. "Is there anything reliable in the sign, of which I have heard, of the interlacing the fingers to see which thumb naturally comes outside next the person?"

There is a groundwork of truth in all these signs. The person of strong character—especially one of great independence of character—will show it in his right hand; and in interlacing the fingers, the right thumb will naturally fall on the outside, while the more dependent disposition will show itself by throwing the left hand out. This is according to a principle of cheirosophy rather than by any particular value of this sign alone. By this it would seem that the person whose right thumb falls naturally on the outside will naturally dominate others, while the weaker character is shown by the left thumb; this is not infallible, however.

"What is the signification of a deep line running from the base of the thumb to the mount of Jupiter and terminating at the base of the first finger?" Great liberality and good fortune either through marriage or through friends. It is a lucky sign.

"What does it mean to have four parallel fine lines running from the base of the thumb to the life line under Jupiter? What if there is a star on one on the field of Mars? What if a star is at the base of the thumb on one of these lines?" The fine parallel lines, three or more, are worry lines and mean illness or trouble in early life. If there are stars on either end, they will indicate troubles connected with marriage. Or at least serious difficulties in love affairs.

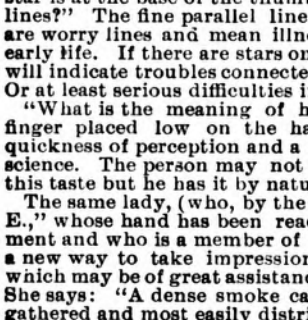
"What is the meaning of having the little finger placed low on the hand?" It means quickness of perception and a leaning towards science. The person may not have developed this taste but he has it by nature.

The same lady, (who, by the way, is "Anchor E.," whose hand has been read in this department and who is a member of the club,) gives a new way to take impressions of the hands which may be of great assistance to some of you. She says: "A dense smoke can be most easily gathered and most easily distributed as well, by holding the paper over burning camphor gum. The best way is to finely crumble the gum thinly on a flat surface, as the larger the lumps the higher they blaze, thus endangering the paper. You can readily see that by spreading the crumbs out on a flat surface a larger surface of paper will take the smoke at once than if held over a single flame."

She also says that a fixatif can easily be made at home by putting a lump of gum shellac into a bottle containing alcohol to cut, which is quite an inexpensive way. Surely both these bits of information are valuable and I hope you will cut them out and paste them in your scrap-books, unless you do better than that and preserve all your back numbers of COMFORT and bind them up.

Now I have taken up so much of my allotted space in answering these questions, which I am sure are of value to every one in COMFORT'S Palmistry Club, that I shall have room for but two readings this month.

The first of these is "See More." He has a good hand denoting a strong, self-reliant character; one who will dare to go ahead with whatever seems right and best for him to do. He will be capable of great self-sacrifice and is generous in disposition. He has a good business hand and the most fortunate part of his life will come after the age of twenty-five and until fifty. He will make a good merchant, real estate dealer, insurance agent or will do well in any similar line. I should say those callings would be better than a professional career. He will live to be seventy or over, for although the life line is broken in his left hand it is all right in the other, and the right is the hand which denotes his life as he makes it; he will need to take especial care of himself between the ages of thirty and fifty, however. He will marry not far from thirty and will have a happy marriage. The line to which the accompanying letter refers as "descending from the heart line" is not so; I should read it as a line ascending to it, which puts a good meaning to it. It shows happiness and good luck somewhere about thirty—probably connected with his marriage. The broken heart-line I do not see repeated on the other hand in the impressions before me; if it is not in both hands it is not to be counted; if it is it may mean heart-disease or it may mean serious trouble resulting from the affections at the period indicated. I should judge from the shape of his finger-tips, as I cannot see his nails, that he might be subject to heart-disease. I think he will marry but once, and will never be very wealthy, although he will be comfortably well off. He will travel somewhat in the latter part of his life. He probably meets with a disappointment in his first love affair, which comes quite early in life; but he will live to be glad of it and will marry very happily when the proper time comes. This will not be before he is thirty, and he must not try to hurry it.



"SEE MORE."

"A. S. K." has hands of a very different type. They are a woman's hands and indicate a nature of directly opposite tendencies. This hand is as distinctly feminine as the other is masculine. It shows a very refined, gentle nature, fond of music, art, poetry and all things that are delicate and womanly. This person is of a highly nervous temperament, very ambitious and somewhat impatient of restraint. She is anxious to leap at once to successful ends and is too often unwilling to work patiently for them as all must who would succeed permanently. She has great ideas of what she would do and courage to carry them out; if she will cultivate patience and perseverance, and will be more energetic about sticking hard at whatever she undertakes, she is sure to succeed in the end. She will be long-lived and will have fairly good health, although by nature her constitution is delicate. She will probably have a severe illness about the age of thirty-five to forty. She will recover, however, and will live to a green old age. She will marry very happily and make a sensible match at the same time, which is about thirty-five. She will have affairs before that and possibly marry before, but the "grand passion" of her life will come at that time. She has a romantic hand and this attachment (at thirty-five) will be somewhat unexpected and from a man who will come suddenly into her life, probably from another part of the country. She has great good sense and will be guided in matters of the heart by good judgment as well as by love. She will be well off after this marriage and will have a fine reputation. Probably she will be distinguished on her own account, although I think her husband will be famous, too. There is a great deal in a hand like hers, and I would prefer to see and feel such a hand, as there is always more to be told by doing this than it is possible to get out of a reading on paper, where it is impossible to take into account the quality, size and consistency of the hand; but I predict for "A. S. K." a career of considerable variety, on the whole lucky and always interesting.



"A. S. K."

Digitus

CATARRH CAN BE CURED.

Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; and yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption, and nervous diseases, this recipe in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 920 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

SALARY $900.00 A YEAR $75 MONTHLY. STRAIGHT OUT SALARY. BONAFIDE SALARY. NO MORE, NO LESS SALARY

Several trustworthy gentlemen or ladies wanted in each state to manage our business in their own and nearby counties. It is mainly office work conducted at home. Salary straight $900 a year and expenses—definite, bonafide, no commission, easy to understand. Six years in business find us compelled COMPETENT RELIABLE MANAGERS to secure to handle our rapidly growing trade. References. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope.

THE DOMINION COMPANY,
Dept. N 5 - Chicago, Ill



FREE! A beautiful Solid Gold Shell RING with a simulating *Birthday Stone*, mounted in Belcher setting, also an exquisite Tiffany style Opal Stick Pin.

YOU PAY NOTHING. SIMPLY SEND YOUR NAME and ADDRESS ON A POST CARD and we will send you 12 packages of Imperishable Violet Sachet Perfume to sell for us, if you can, at 10 cents each. When sold send us our money, and we will send you FREE both prizes. (To each month is dedicated a precious stone. Anyone wearing the stone of their birth-month insures them great and unfailing good luck.) These Birthday Rings surpass in beauty any FREE premium ever offered. Send Address on Post Card. No money required. Perfume returnable if not sold. Mention this paper. NATIONAL SUPPLY CO. 46, 48, 50 W. Larned St., DETROIT, MICH.

MAGIC DIP NEEDLE for locating Gold and Silver Ore, Lost or Hidden Treasures. Circulars and testimonials free.
P. & M. AGENCY, Palmyra, Pa.

BICYCLE FREE OR CASH TO ANY ONE distributing my soaps, etc. I trust you. F. Parker, 277 E. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

SAVE ONE-HALF YOUR FUEL. Write for book and agency. Rochester Radiator Co., Rochester, N. Y.

PEPSIN-SALTED PEANUTS.

Dyspepsia, Insomnia and Other Ills Cured by the Common American Peanut.

IF the day ever dawns when science shall have robbed Nature of her last secret the world's people of that era will marvel at the host of simple things that Nature possessed for the welfare of mankind. Diligent investigation has lately discovered that the common American peanut contains qualities which when scientifically prepared and made operative with **salt** and **pepsin** in proper proportions acts with amazing promptitude on the gastric juices, relieving almost immediately dyspeptic disturbances, and, in time, curing dyspepsia in its worst forms.

To America is due the honor of having first produced the peanut (arachis hypogæa). Its true name is "goober," and Virginia is noted for exceptionally large crops of the nut. Since something of its real value has become known other warm countries succeeded in growing it. The plant is leguminous and of many branches, resembling somewhat the clover. It is planted and cared for much like peas or beans and is sometimes called earth or ground nut on account of its vines running along on the ground. Two years ago any one recommending peanuts for dyspepsia would have been geered at, and rightly, too, for it is of more recent date that the medicinal qualities of the nut were discovered. Until this discovery these qualities were dominated by an oil in which the peanut is rich. This oil is non-drying and valuable as a lubricant. It is also used extensively as an adulterant for olive oil.

Frequent experiments discovered that the peanut was also rich in nutriment, and that this food when **peptonized** acted like magic in dispelling heartburn, curing insomnia, and putting the digestive apparatus in working order. All well-informed medical men know that science has succeeded in isolating so pure a pepsin that it will digest 25,000 times its own weight in albumen. Pepsin is one of the albuminoids or nitrogenous substances, and it has the power of converting proteids into peptones. When the process of digestion does not furnish sufficient pepsin to accomplish complete assimilation of the food dyspepsia begins to entrench itself in the system. Then have a care, for, if its inroads are not blocked and the disease routed, years of intense suffering are sure to follow.

Everybody likes peanuts. Ever since the first "Young America" laughed at the antics of the circus clown peanuts have been popular. Children love to eat them on the sly "when the teacher isn't looking," while older persons have been known to crack them quietly in their pockets and sneak the palatable kernels into their mouths at the theater. Even the confirmed dyspeptic loves them, but is afraid. Who, it may be asked, ever expected to hear of peanuts being used as a remedy for **dyspepsia**, for **Bright's Disease**, for **Diabetes**, for **Insomnia** and for corpulency?

Germany claims the credit of having discovered the possibilities of the peanut, and an eminent chemist **in our employ** has demonstrated that **"pepsin-salted"** peanuts lose none of the peanut flavor in the preparation. Our process of preparing them is such that the oil is neutralized while the flavor and the medicinal properties of the nut are retained. This makes a **food-medicine** that is certain to be the delight of everybody.

In connection with medicinal qualities of **pepsin-salted** peanuts it might be interesting as well as instructive to know that peanuts outrank, by a large percentage, such nutritive foods as cheese, peas, beef, rice, potatoes, milk, rye flour, and veal. Already the Germans are making flour and butter from the peanut, and the success of the venture has been such that peanut planters everywhere are preparing to double their usual crops.

We are the first in the United States to prepare **pepsin-salted** peanuts for the market, and we hope to merit success solely from the quality of the goods which we shall dispose of through our agents at 10c. per package.

Experiments have proved that our pepsin-salted peanuts will cure heartburn and relieve all the other pangs of chronic dyspepsia.

Sufferers from the effects of Bright's Disease and other kidney troubles have noted marked progress after treatment.

Corpulency disappears because the **pepsin-salted** peanuts digests and makes other food digest.

Half a handful eaten one hour before retiring will induce sleep and a continuation of **pepsin-salted** peanuts rightly will cure insomnia.

Notice COMFORT'S special offer in advertisement on another page of "Two thousand packages shelled peanuts sent free," write at once for a sample package as per their offer.

Agents, Perfumes etc. on credit. Big Profit. Express Pd. Terms free. Herbene Co., Box 4, Station L, New York.

MONEY MAKER MERRY GO ROUNDS. Norman & Evans, Lockport, N.Y.

GOOD PAY TO GOOD MEN, enclose stamp. Manu. Adv. Co., Dept. F, 114 W. 34th St., N. Y

$1.95 MEN'S PANTS. SEND NO MONEY.



Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your HEIGHT and WEIGHT, number inches around body at waist (pants waist band), around body at hips, largest part, also length of pants leg, inside seam, from tight in crotch to heel, state whether you wish LIGHT, MEDIUM or DARK GOODS. We will send you these pants (to your measure) by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, examine them at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to pants that others sell at $4.00 to $6.00, pay your express agent our special offer price, $1.95 and express charges. These PANTS are made on the latest 1899 patterns, by expert tailors, made from high-grade special, wear-resisting, wool pants fabrics, in LIGHT, MEDIUM or DARK Shades, finest trimmings, patent never-to-come-off buttons, silk and linen sewing, finest work throughout; 2,000 to go at $1.95. Order at Once. Don't Delay. We Send Free Cloth Samples of Men's made-to-measure Pants, $1.50 to $4.00; suits $5.50 to $12.00; also tape measure, fashion plates, etc. Write for Free Simple Book No. 5 E. Address.
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.

SHOEMAKER'S POULTRY BOOK on and Almanac for 1899. 160 pages, 100 illustrations of Fowls, Incubators, Brooders, Poultry Houses, Poultry Supplies and largest Poultry Farm. Tells how to raise Chickens successfully, their care, diseases and remedies. Diagrams with full description to build best Poultry houses. All about Incubators, Brooders and thoroughbred Fowls, with lowest prices. Printed on good paper in two colors. Price only 15c. Money back if not pleased.



C. C. SHOEMAKER, Box 966, Freeport, Ill.

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.



Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1½ doz. Packages of Bluine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required.
BLUINE CO. Box 312 Concord Junction, Mass.

SPOT CASH



$5.00 to $20.00 Per 100 PAID for used or cancelled U. S. postage stamps OF THE SORTS USED TO-DAY. Higher prices paid for OLD STAMPS. Here is a chance where any person can actually earn money easily, gathering used stamps. Send ten cents silver for price list, so you can begin collecting stamps and selling them without delay. Address U. S. STAMP CO., Dept. C, 112 Dearborn St., Chicago.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance.
GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you $25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address with stamp. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

SAMPSON $1 WATCH.

Genuine American Watch specially commemorating Admiral Sampson's Victory at Santiago, where "Maine" was "Remembered." A souvenir of the war. Warranted one year. Price $1.00. Send 10c. additional for postage and packing or 2c. stamp for booklet.
"JONES," Branch 26, Madison Sq., N. Y. City.

LADIES TO EMBROIDER. We send work to your home prepaid. Send addressed envelope for one piece of embroidery with prices paid. If our terms or work are not to your liking, you may return at our expense. Steady work and good pay. EMPIRE EMBROIDERY WORKS, Dept. C, 23 Duane St., New York.

50 lbs. SUGAR $1.00 GRANULATED

We sell 50 lbs. best granulated sugar for $1, and all merchandise at lowest wholesale prices. SEND NO MONEY, but enclose 7 two-ct. stamps for catalogue quoting 50 lbs. best granulated sugar for $1.00 and many other bargains.
U. S. SUPPLY HOUSE, {Salesmen Wanted} Dept. 17, Chicago, Ill.

PIMPLES removed in 4 days, blackheads in 6 days. Perfectly harmless. Never fails. Send 10 cts. silver.
SPECIFIC REMEDY CO., Dept. K, Cleveland, O.

OPIUM HABIT AND MORPHINE Cured at home. Trial Free. No pain. Comp. Oxygen Ass'n, Fort Wayne, Ind.

$3.98 GENTS OR LADIES SIZE



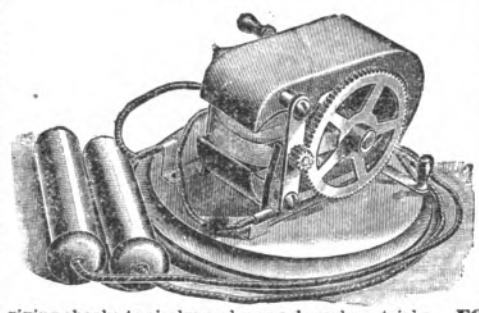
Having recently purchased the entire stock of watches from a bankrupt firm, consisting of solid gold, silver and gold-filled cases, we shall offer a portion of the entire lot at prices never before heard of in the Watch trade. Among the stock are 8,780 AMERICAN STYLE WATCES, in SOLID GOLD-FILLED CASES, which we shall sell singly or by the dozen to private parties or the trade at the unheard-of LOW PRICE of $3.98 EACH. Each and every watch is guaranteed a perfect timekeeper, and each watch is accompanied with our guarantee for 20 years. Think of it! A genuine American Style Movement watch, in solid gold-filled case, and guaranteed 20 YEARS for $3.98. Those wanting a first-class, reliable time-keeper at about one-third retail price, should order at once. Watch speculators can make money by buying by the dozen to sell. CUT THIS OUT and send to us and we will send a watch to you C. O. D., subject to examination, by express, upon approval. If found perfectly satisfactory, and exactly as represented, pay $3.98 and express charges, and it is yours, otherwise you do not pay one cent. Can we make a fairer offer? Be sure to mention whether you want ladies's or gents' size. Price per dozen, 42.00. If full amount, $3.98 is sent with the order, we will include one of our special heavy GOLD FILLED CHAINS, which retails the world over, for $1.00. Address at once,
SAFE WATCH CO., 19 Warren St., New York, N.Y.

ELECTRICITY IS LIFE.

THE GREAT HOME HEALER.

Pain Vanishes, Blooming Health Returns at the Touch of Science.

Read of this Modern Scientific Machine that Heals, Teaches and Amuses.



Electricity no longer the master but the servant of man, represents to us light, heat and force. By these three great powers everything on earth lives and electricity means life. This grand machine is a combined motor and dynamo and gives a perfect electric organization. Most interesting and instructive of the recent products of electrical science; teaches and instructs while it amuses, young and old alike. Scientific in construction and no student or ingenious boy should be without it. Perfectly harmless, but produces no end of fun, by giving shocks to circles and many harmless tricks. **FOR A HOME CURER.** Doctors know almost every known disease and pain yields readily to electrical currents. The cost of electric batteries as generally sold places them far beyond reach of any but the wealthy. This Electrical Machine has been produced by the latest and most improved machinery and at nominal cost as compared with the expensive batteries formerly sold at $8, $10 or $20 each. The great improvements in machinery enables us to produce this and to offer it to you for a mere trifle. **See What Electricity is Used For.** There is no disease of the nerves or any bodily pain which will not yield readily to electric currents. This wonderful machine utilizes the forces of nature; drives out **Rheumatic Pains, Neuralgia** and every species of **blood** and **nerve disease**; Cures **Weakness of every kind and nature and restores youthful health and vigor. Works like a miracle for that worn out feeling and languor and despondency and strengthening nervous system with a direct** (not alternating) **current**, large in volume but pleasant to take, no shock or irritation. Patent switch adjusts current to weakest child or strongest man. A valuable treatise accompanies every machine shipped. We now place nature's great restorative agent, Electricity, within the reach of every sufferer rich or poor.

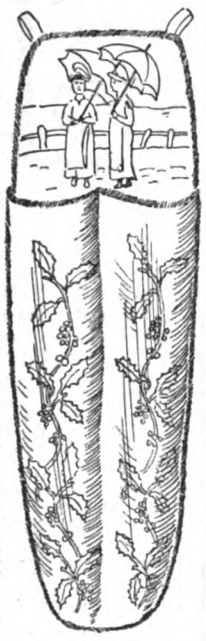
A Wonderful Offer to All. This Electrical Machine is needed in every home and family. We will send one to any person who will send us $1.00, and 25 cents to pay all shipping charges besides sending our great home paper, COMFORT, subscription paid for one year. ($1.25 for everything.)
Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

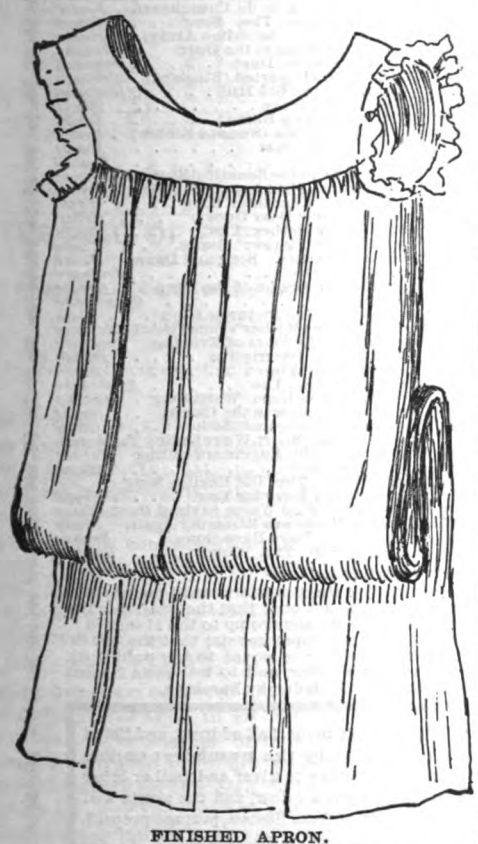


THE attic, being a catch-all for the articles which are out of date and yet which are too good to be thrown away, is a very interesting place in which to spend an hour or two, several times during the year. We there often find things we had entirely forgotten we ever owned, and it often happens that they are the very things we are in need of. Recently, on such a visit I unearthed an umbrella case. These cases were much in vogue a dozen years ago, but, like everything else, got slightly out of date and so was relegated to a trunk in the attic, but it always was a useful ornament and knowing this I pressed out the wrinkles and it now adorns a closet door and is a very convenient receptacle for four umbrellas. Our illustration shows it. It is made of heavy unbleached linen, the back piece being 26 inches long by 9 inches wide at the top, tapering slightly from top to bottom, so that at the bottom it is 4 inches wide; it may be rounded, at top and bottom, or left with square corners, as preferred. Near the top are embroidered figures in outline, or leaves or sprays of flowers may be used. The pocket is 28 inches long by 8 wide, and is embroidered with two sprays of holly. This pocket is basted onto the back, from the bottom to within 8 inches of the top, and the edges are bound with braid, two loops being left at the top of the back piece, with which to hang the article on a door or wall. The center of the pocket is stitched the entire length, to the back piece, thus forming two pockets. Before the pocket piece is stitched to the back piece the top should be bound with braid like that used for the edge. As the pocket piece is wider than the back piece, some plaits must be laid over in the former, at the bottom, to make it fit onto the latter. The one here illustrated is worked with red tambo, and the braid used for the edge is ordinary red wool binding braid. A pocket of this kind keeps the dust from umbrellas, and keeps them out of the way.



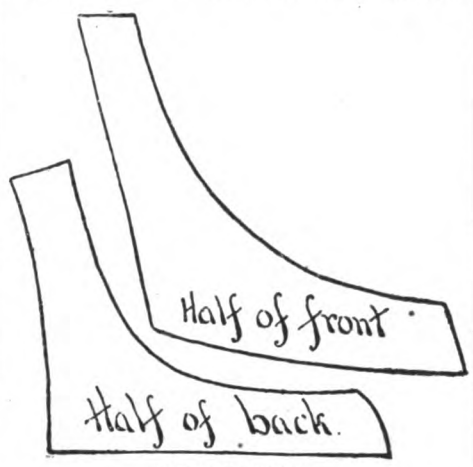
Cases should always be taken off umbrellas when putting them away, as, if left loose, the silk will not crack so readily. Tie the cases onto the handles, and then they will always be at hand when needed. A pocket of the kind described above will easily hold 4 umbrellas, even though they are only loosely rolled.

At Christmas I had such a treasure of an apron given to me, that I want to describe it to the readers of this column, and if they haven't one similar to it, they had better go right to work and make one, for it is not only useful, but a very becoming garment as well, and that usually counts.



FINISHED APRON.

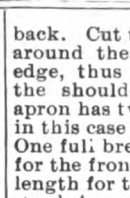
Our illustrations show the apron, also the pattern of the yoke, which is easily followed and enlarged by any one desiring to make one. The front of the yoke may be cut on one piece by laying the pattern on a fold of the cloth—or may be cut in two pieces and seamed in the middle of the front; the back of yoke is cut in two pieces, as the apron buttons down the back. Cut two yokes and seam them together around the top, and then turn and stitch the edge, thus making the yokes double; stitch the shoulder seams. The lower part of the apron has two breadths of the material, which in this case is blue and white striped percale. One full breadth, a yard and a half long is used for the front, and two half-breadths the same length for the back. Gather the breadths and sew between the lining and outside of the yoke, leaving a few inches on the edges coming under the arms, to run out beyond the arm holes, *plain*. Then stitch the under arm seams to the bottom, hem bottom and edges at middle of back, and put a button and buttonhole at back of yoke. A narrow ruffle is then inserted between lining and outside of arm hole, and then this and the bottom of the yoke are stitched. This is a pretty pattern for a child's apron, made of nainsook or barred muslin, and sash ends may be inserted in seam under arms and tied in the back. If desired to button from



YOKE PATTERN.

yoke to bottom, *two* breadths must be used in the back, instead of one divided in the middle, otherwise it will not be full enough to button to the bottom and look well.

Habits and Superstitions of Musicians.



ONE of my musician friends, said Flageolet Dash to the *Leader*, has a piano; he not only plays on it, but he makes the inside serve him as a safe. He plays a tune, then lifts the lid and takes out a cheese sandwich and a bottle of beer. Of course he is a bachelor. I know another musician who plays on one of those big brass things that go around the body (a helicon). Well, when he goes off to play at a street parade he carries his luncheon inside the instrument; and he tells me that the tones and the power of the instrument are improved by its sides coming in contact with the sausages, sauer kraut and black bread. Yet he seems to make just as good music when the luncheon is packed in the vicinity of his wind-bag. I know a flute-player who thinks it unlucky to wash his hands on the day he plays the flute. He says he was once persuaded to defy the superstition and washed his hands, and on that very day some one stole his flute case. I know a fiddle-player who says it's the very highest kind of luck to be invited out to dinner; and he says that if he is ever foolish enough to decline the offer, he always plays out of tune. Another musician has a superstition that it is a sign of luck if he takes somebody else's hat and umbrella in place of his own. He told me, as a curious fact, that the luck always came to him when he was wearing an old hat or carrying an old umbrella.

A POSITIVE CURE FOR SUPERFLUOUS HAIR
I will send my treatment free to any woman. Easily applied and results permanent without injury. Thousands of references from afflicted persons. Enclose two stamps for postage. Margaret Fredericks, 1815 N. 16th st., Phila, Pa.

A PURE ALUMINUM PENCIL. FROSTED SILVER FINISH.
A beautiful automatic pocket pencil made of pure aluminum, the lightest, toughest and longest wearing metal in existence. *Looks like frosted silver* and will wear for five years, has rubber on end and movable lead. Makes a handsome present and is rich and distinguished looking when taken from pocket or desk. Will send one free if you will immediately send seven cents for mailing charges and a trial three months' subscription to GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

$5 AND UP. **1000 SEWING MACHINES**

Standard makes. Everyone a bargain. Various styles. Highest grade high arm machines. We are closing out the stock of a well known make at less than factory cost. We are under contract not to advertise the name for at our prices it would ruin their agents. Don't miss this opportunity. WE GUARANTEE the machine for years — most for your money — satisfaction in every purchase. Shipped on approval. If not right don't keep it. A few good AGENTS WANTED.
BROWN-LEWIS CO., (E) 293 Wabash Ave., Chicago.
(This is an old house and reliable. Machine is a bargain—Editor.]

GRAND OFFER
TO READERS OF COMFORT.
21 PACKAGES SELECTED FLOWER SEEDS MAILED FREE 10 CENTS.

Aster, New Japanese (Double).
Pansy, Assorted.
Pink Carnation.
Sweet Pea, Best Quality.
Forget-me-nots.
Poppy, French Mixed.
Phlox, Beautiful Colors.
Morning Glory, New, Large.
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Marigold, French.
Candytuft, Large.
Sweet Mignonette, Large Flower.
Sweet Alyssum, for Edgings.
Larkspur, Double Rocket.
Zinnia, Double Rich Flower.
Chrysanthemum, Double Flower.
Portulaca, Double Mixed.
Cypress Vine.
Bachelor's Buttons.

EACH VARIETY IN SEPARATE PACKAGE Send 10c. in silver or 12c. in 1 or 2 cent stamps.

This special offer applies only to readers of COMFORT, and as a Premium to introduce our Seeds, we will also send a **Package of Cosmos Mammoth Elegant Flowering** also a package of Patriot Flowers, Red, White and Blue (Free), making 21 packages in all for 10c. If seeds are not as represented return them and money will be refunded.
American Seed Co., 104 State St., Boston, Mass.

Are You Beautiful?
If not, read this and learn how to have a Lovely Complexion.



Everybody admires women and girls with clear, healthy, spotless complexions. They are attracted by pink cheeks and soft, velvety, delicate skin. Nothing destroys happiness and beauty like **Freckles, Pimples, Blackheads, Yellow or Muddy Skin, Moth, Wrinkles, Red Nose or Face, Tan, Eruptions, Discolorations or Blemishes** of any nature. They make both men and women homely and make them look old. All these afflictions are quickly and easily cured by **DR. BOTOT'S COMPLEXION WAFERS.** This is the most wonderful beautifier that was ever made. It is positively harmless to all, and contains not a single atom of **Lead, Bismuth or Arsenic.**

FOR GENTLEMEN AS WELL AS LADIES. These Wafers completely and permanently remove every eruption, blotch, discoloration and blemish on **both Ladies and Gentlemen.** They make the old look young. They beautify **Face, Neck, Shoulders and Arms.** They impart the delicate tints of girlhood and youth to the complexion. A woman cannot possibly be homely if she uses **DR. BOTOT'S COMPLEXION WAFERS.** She will be as fair as a rose, and wrinkles will not appear until she is far advanced in life. This may seem impossible to you, but it is the plain truth. The Wafers are not a cosmetic, remember, but a food for the skin. They make ladies of 40 look to be less than 30.

You Can Try Them Free. For a short time we will continue to send a **free trial package of DR. BOTOT'S WAFERS** to readers of this paper. You can thus satisfy yourself of their wonderful beautifying virtues without cost. Send your name and P. O. address at once, before this liberal offer is withdrawn, and enclose a stamp to pay postage. We mail the samples in **sealed, plain envelopes.** Address
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A recent short story by an American writer advocated the purchase of Mt. Etna and Vesuvius by American Stock Company. The volcanic power was to be utilized for motive force. The serious and detailed explanation was accepted by a European newspaper as a statement of fact and its editorial column launched forth in bitter denunciation of the sordid spirit of gain that actuated all Americans. Not even the scenic beauty of the greatest of volcanoes was free from the dollar and cent standard of the American. Well, they do not know when we are in earnest and our fun isn't yet within the comprehension of the literal minded foreigner. They needn't feel at all disturbed. We don't want any of their old effete volcanoes for show or blow or ducats. We've got the biggest firepot on earth right in our own Hawaii. Kilauea has been firing up recently and the worn out monarchies simply haven't got a volcano that can enter the same class as Kilauea when it gets down to business.

The French Government has made a wise decision in refusing to exhibit the work of woman by itself. The stage has been passed that required woman to prove that she was capable of doing work in any art, profession or science. The sex barrier practically does not limit woman's field of work. She has proven her right of admission into the field of competition and now she must prove that she can hold the ground she has won, not because she is a woman but because she is a competent worker. It is oftener easier to win than to retain the prizes of this world. In the fair field of open competition it is the fittest who survive. The best lawyer, the best architect, the best physician, the best artist rises to the top through merit of effort. It raises woman's work to a higher plane when the question is not one of the sex of the producer, but simply of the relative excellence of the production.

Every nation is at heart savage. Longfellow's vision of the time when "the warrior's name would be a name abhorred" seems farther off to-day than ever. The peace proposition of the young ruler of the least civilized nation of Europe scarcely meets with even serious comment. Victories of statesmanship and diplomacy do not appeal to the masses of the people. The old savage admiration of the battle hero yet sweeps all before it. Nothing stronger illustrates this than the relative success of the effort to raise a fund for a memorial to Gladstone and the monument towards a memorial for Kitchener, the victor of the Soudan. Popular interest in the Gladstone memorial seems to have died out. It was proposed to place a library in many English towns with the funds arising from a popular subscription. This Gladstone Memorial Library would, it was felt, be a fit tribute to the Grand Old Man. The project is likely to be carried through by the interest of a few wealthy men. On the other hand the public are tumbling over one another to contribute toward a college for blacks at Khartoum to be called the Gordon Memorial College. It is the old savage instinct of admiration of the victor in battle.

The Oread Institute of Worcester, Mass., is entering upon a work of practical philanthropy. This school is the successor of the New Era Cooking School. It offers free tuition, room and board to one woman from each state and territory. The governor of the state is to be given the appointment of the candidate subject to the conditions that the appointee must be between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five, must have a High school education or its equivalent and must show natural ability and a desire to learn. After her graduation she will be aided to a position in her state. People are just beginning to comprehend the intimate relation between food and the mental and moral development of man. What we eat and what we are are not two entirely separate problems. The scientific study of nutrition of food stuffs and of methods of preparing food is constantly receiving more and more attention. These scholarships mean more for the good of the community than a corresponding number of college scholarships. We do not neglect or decry the mental, but it depends more closely upon the physical than people have believed. The Oread scholarships are steps in the right direction.

March fourth marks the middle of President McKinley's administration and the close of the fifty-fifth Congress of the United States. In reviewing the events of the last one hundred and ten years, or the time in which the will of the people has been shown through its Congress, the great importance of this Congress stands clearly out. It has had to decide not only what is wise at the moment but what is likely to be wisdom in the sight of future generations. Never before in our history has a choice of acts seemed to rest more completely in the hands of the people. In the great national crises that have arisen during the one hundred and ten years of our nationality, there has been less freedom of determination. We have not precipitated affairs but have waited, and when the inevitable was thrust upon us have accepted it with strength and fortitude. When we entered upon the war with Spain it is safe to say that a large—a very large—proportion of thoughtful people were doubtful of the wisdom of the act. After the war begun the nation was one mind and one heart until its close. There seems little doubt that the policy of expansion is a favorite one with the people at large. The fifty-fifth Congress will be a marked one in the history of our nation. The United States has with one bound entered into the arena with the great colonial powers of the earth. New times demand new theories and new practices and the next Congress must face conditions and questions for whose solving the past furnishes no precedent.

The Supreme Court Justices are hereafter to wear an insignia of office in the form of a black silk robe. This has always been the custom in the Supreme Court at Washington and its general introduction is to be commended. We are told by one well-known writer that law has its seat in the bosom of God. Certainly all that adds to the dignity and prestige of the law will react favorably upon the community. Some radical believers in plain, unadorned, democratic simplicity detect a startling departure from national traditions in this innovation. As a matter of fact the precedent set by Washington favored more pomp and circumstance in the administration of all departments of government. The State Court of Appeals in New York some time ago adopted the gown. Many lawyers believe that its general adoption by all magistrates and judges would add much to the dignity of court proceedings. Lord Bacon once declared that the Judge when he sat upon the bench was another man from the layman. No doubt a change of apparel emphasizes the different attitude of mind required from a man as a judge or a man as an ordinary citizen. The association of long ages of historic precedent is shown by the wearing of a gown. The old Egyptian lawgivers were so arrayed. Rome's greatest contribution to civilization was in the old Roman laws and her law judges wore the gown of their exalted office. In early ages the gown was white; the black robe became more common in the days when the priests were judges. Human nature does not change with successive ages. The dress that was the symbol of justice and right is more needed to-day than at any time. We need to revive any precedent or tradition that adds dignity without sacrificing self respect.

The question of the admission of Mr. Roberts the Congressman elect from Utah to a seat in the House has greatly excited the moral feelings of the nation. Mr. Roberts is a polygamist and hundreds of petitions have been prepared to present to the House asking that he may be refused a seat. Utah is one of the states having the smallest representation allowed by the Constitution. Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Wyoming and Utah by the census of 1890 are entitled to but one representative. This man has great responsibility, as the sole representative of the people as individuals. The question of the admission of members of Congress is not a moral one but a constitutional one. The constitution demands three qualifications; age, citizenship, residence. A representative must be twenty-five years of age, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state from which he is chosen. The Constitution expressly states that "Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members." This is understood to allow them to judge under three provisions of the Constitution in reference to eligibility. Cases of contested elections are frequent in the House. Two men elected to the Senate have been declared disqualified by that body; Albert Gallatin of Pennsylvania in 1798 and James Shields of Illinois in 1849, were barred on the ground of insufficient citizenship. If Mr. Roberts fails in any one of the three Constitutional requirements for a representation he may legally be refused admission to the House. If not he must be admitted, but there is a Constitutional clause that will enable the House to enforce the moral sentiment of the public that it represents. The House may on vote of two-thirds of its members censure or expel a member. This power has been exercised. It would be a travesty upon the law against polygamy should the House accept and retain a member who was indeniably guilty of the crime. The polygamy question in Utah was for years a shame to our laws and our sense of morality. The man who upholds such an institution should not be allowed a place in the deliberations of the nation. If by the provisions of the Constitution he is legally entitled to a seat, he should have it. Then the House should put itself on record by expelling the man who is trying to defy public opinion.

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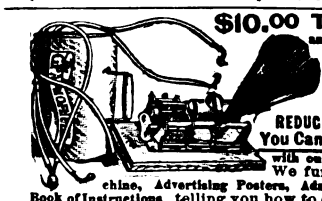
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165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
35	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
18	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
33	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nuttino
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
43	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
63	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
137	My Love Polka	Ziehrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
83	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
29	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
57	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
26	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
44	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reissmann
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
12	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Epiett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
4	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song	Mosher
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
54	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Bluebird)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall

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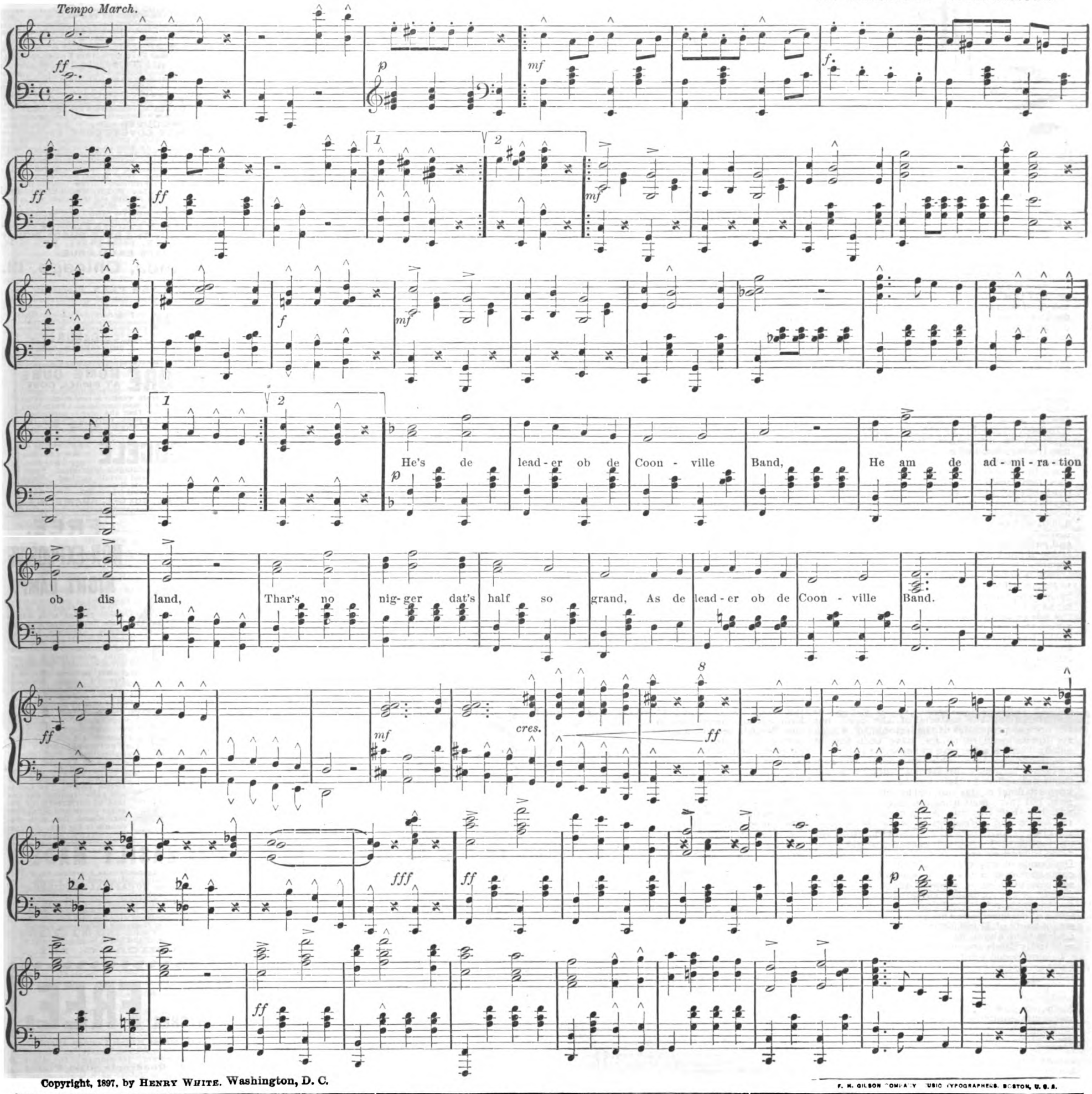
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Address "COMFORT Music Room," Augusta, Maine.

DE LEADER OB DE COONVILLE BAND.

(HUMORISTIC TWO STEP.)

W. GOURLEY WILMARTH.



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THE AGE OF ELECTRICITY.

The Horse and Many Other Old Ideas Passing Away.

The Present Generation one of Progress.

Electricity, the giant force of the world, has come wonderfully to the front within a quarter of a century; the telephone, Electric motive-power, Electrical lighting and heating and many other inventions which but then were infants are now the established means of civilization. No part of the electric field has witnessed greater and more successful advance than the substitution of electricity for horses on the street railways.

About a dozen years ago the experiment of running horsecars on street railways by the use of electricity was tried in an Ohio city as an experiment. The success of this line as demonstrating greater economy and speed and more satisfactory service lead to its immediate adoption all over the world and to-day the trolley has supplanted the horsecar almost universally, while hundreds of cities and smaller towns have trolleys where the expense of a horse motive-power line could not have been considered.

The electric railroad is but the beginning of the extended use of this marvellous force which is generally predicted as the heat, light and power of the coming century. It will supersede the use of steam as a power at a comparatively early day, or the best prophets are at fault. Considering the tremendous strides taken in the last ten years no one can predict what may not be accomplished as electricity becomes better understood.

This puts COMFORT in mind of a letter written by a leading electric railway man in the West in praise of another step of progress, which is so interesting that we reproduce it herewith. This bright-minded man has been quick to observe that in other fields than that of electricity there is rapid progress being made and his letter shows what he thinks of it. Thus the popular method of providing the best sheet music for every home at trifling cost marks in its own way as great progress as the harnessing down of the electric force to man's use.



Comfort Music Room,
Augusta, Maine,

Gentlemen:-

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the music sent me today and must confess that I was very much surprised as to the good quality of the paper and type. Yours is the greatest offer of the day and ought to be brought before every one who understands anything about music.

Yours very truly,

Fred. D. Hoffmann

But it is not only the man of action but also the philosopher and student that recognizes the great merit of this singular plan that has placed every home in a way to obtain the best music at trifling cost. Rev. R. B. Collins, the popular and learned minister of Meyersdale, Pa., writes of this method: "New music ordered came to hand this morning in excellent condition * * * Allow me to thank you and express my opinion * * * To say we are pleased is to put it too mildly, we are *delighted*, and are amazed at the cheapness of your publications * * an inspiration and a help * * I wish you abundant success in your efforts. You are placing much good music in homes which otherwise would be deprived of it. We shall continue to order."

Read the music offer on another page we want every one to take advantage, and will gladly refund if not exactly as described or even better. Ask any musical friend or critic to make a trial test.

The authentic records of the Chinese race began about 4,000 years ago, though the traditional history extends much further back.

GEMS MADE TO ORDER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



It IS said that no such display of diamonds has ever been seen in New York as is on exhibition this winter. The fashionable women at the opera are fairly laden with glittering gems, some of the leaders among them being adorned not only with necklaces, bracelets and rings, but even with stomachers and coronets of precious stones. Yet it is very interesting to consider that a slight improvement on an invention already made would cause these ladies of the gilded world to divest themselves of such gauds and to abandon the wearing of diamonds forever.

Real diamonds have already been manufactured in the laboratory, and it only remains to increase their size somewhat in order to render gems of this kind comparatively cheap—provided, of course, that the cost of artificial production is not excessive. Prof. Frank Clarke, of the United States Geological Survey, and other eminent chemists, are of the opinion that before long the carbon crystals now so precious will be turned out on a commercial scale, both as to size and quantity, without going to the mines for them. Should that happen, rich people will no longer care to wear diamonds, any more than they would now adorn themselves with bits of cutglass, however beautiful to the eye.

Indeed, they may be obliged to give up precious stones altogether, inasmuch as pretty nearly every kind of gem threatens to become a cheap laboratory product, thanks to recent scientific discoveries. For example, emeralds have been made by fusing together boric acid, oxide of chromium, and flawed and worthless crystals of real emerald. These, like the artificial diamonds, have not been obtained of sufficient size as yet to be worth anything in the market; but they point the way. Sapphires and rubies have likewise been reproduced—the latter of marketable size, by fusing small ruby "sparks" together.

This is not a question of imitation, properly so termed. The rubies are as real as those made by Nature, and indistinguishable from the latter save by the aid of a microscope. However, the sale of them has been forbidden in France where they are made, and people are not disposed to buy them, simply for the reason that they are counterfeit. At the present time a real ruby of 4 carats' weight, of good color, is worth $9000, while a diamond of the same size is valued at only $1000. Real amethysts have been made accidentally in the pottery furnaces at Sevres. Garnets have been reproduced, though imperfectly. There is no trouble in manufacturing the material of the opal, but the optical properties of that stone, to which are due its beautiful colors, have been turned out by Traube, a German chemist.

It is obvious from this statement the gem market is seriously threatened, though as yet it has not suffered. Jewelers have been able to keep artificial rubies out of the market up to now, but there is no question that these stones will find their way into use eventually. Rubies are scarce and infrequently worn; with diamonds it is quite otherwise, and laboratory reproductions of them, if cheap, would soon drive the mined crystals out of employment. Diamonds of any kind would in that event become so common as to be despised by the average bartender for purposes of adornment. The danger of the prospect suggested may be understood when it is explained that the world's stock of diamonds at the present time represent a value of $1,000,000,000. Of this amount, dealers hold about $350,000,000 worth, and private individuals are owners of the balance.

It is proposed to utilize the power of Niagara Falls to make diamonds, the reason back of this suggestion being that immense forces and an enormous heat seem to be required for the production of these crystals in large size. Science is now of the opinion that Nature makes diamonds in the bowels of the earth by subjecting a mixture of iron and carbon to a tremendous temperature, the stuff being allowed to cool very slowly, after which it is vomited up as volcanic matter. That is almost unquestionably the way in which the diamonds of the great South African fields have been formed, the carbon being crystallized out during the cooling. This process has been imitated successfully in Paris by M. Moissan, who fuses charcoal and wrought iron at 4,500 degrees Fahrenheit in an electric furnace. After slow cooling, the carbon of the charcoal is crystallized out in the form of microscopic diamonds.

It is observed that these artificial diamonds sometimes explode. Curiously enough, the natural stones frequently do the same thing soon after they are brought out of the mine. They have been known to burst in the pockets of miners, or when held in the warm hand. Big ones seem to be more liable to burst than small ones, and in this way valuable stones have been destroyed. As a safeguard against such accidents, dealers frequently pack large diamonds in raw potatoes for shipment. The phenomenon described appears to be due to a small quantity of gas which is confined at enormous pressure in the interior of the gem. When warm, it has a tendency to expand, and so explodes the stone. This statement is made on the authority of the famous Prof. Crookes.

In this connection, it is very interesting to notice the fact that most of the diamonds obtained from the South African or other mines are not complete crystals but fragments, as if exploded. Nature, apparently, has produced them in her own chemical laboratories at great depths, where the temperature is comparable to that of the electric furnace, and where the immense pressure that seems to be required is existent. It is in recognition of these requirements that the suggestion respecting the employment of Niagara has been offered, the power obtainable from the cataract being sufficient to furnish any amount of pressure, and to give, through the medium of electricity, an enormous heat.

Were it not for the propensity of the natural diamond to explode, doubtless large gems of this kind would be comparatively common. Just to show what Nature is able to do in the production of this species of crystal, an object lesson is offered by the diamond—the biggest ever known—called the Jagersfontein Excelsior, which weighs nine hundred and seventy-one carats, or nearly half a pound. It is of pure water, except for a slight flaw near the center. The owner of it is the Pope, to whom it was presented, and its value has been estimated at five million dollars. The sort of flaw described is apt to be observable in any diamond and frequently it takes the form of a small cavity, which is believed to contain the highly-compressed gas already referred to. If this gem had chanced to burst it would probably have been resolved into a multitude of comparatively worthless splinters.

The mines of South Africa produce an average of fifty-five hundred carats of diamonds per day. The gems are dug out of great holes in the earth and the richness of the deposits does not appear to diminish with the depth. The formation is a sort of blue earth, as hard almost as stone, which is taken out of the mines and spread over the ground for hundreds of acres. Exposed to the atmosphere it disintegrates rapidly, and this makes it easy to wash out the diamonds. The washing is done on long tables, at which men stand and pick out the glittering crystals. The latter are cleaned by boiling them in acids, after which they are carefully sorted for size, color and purity. The room in which they are displayed at the offices of the company, affords a striking spectacle, being lighted by large windows, beneath which runs a broad counter covered with white sheets of paper. On the paper are laid out ever so many glistening heaps of diamonds, some pink, some white, some blue and some yellow.

A few years ago, before Cecil Rhodes became the arbiter of the diamond mining industry in South Africa, he went to Mr. Barney Barnato, who recently met with so tragic a death by suicide, and appealed to that gentleman's sense of the picturesque by asking him to grant a view, if he could, of a bucket full of diamonds. Barney was a man who loved display above all things and he acquiesced. He took the whole of the stock that was then on hand and emptied it into an ordinary pail, which it just about filled. The exhibition was certainly a sight for the gods, but the shrewd Mr. Rhodes had a purpose in view quite beyond any mere gratification of the eye. He expressed his thanks and went away. Then he put his own big stock of diamonds on the market, knowing that Barney could not possibly be an immediate competitor, inasmuch as it would take at least three weeks to sort out the gems assembled in the bucket. The result was a great profit to Mr. Rhodes.

Some years ago a deposit of beautiful white diamonds of excellent water, was discovered at Inverel, in New South Wales. It was imagined that immense wealth was at hand, but the fact was subsequently disclosed that the stones were so remarkably hard as to be practically unworkable, the result being that the gems had to be sold for use in rock-drills. The natural diamond, of course, is comparatively unbeautiful, depending upon cutting for the display of its marvelous beauties. This, by the way, did not prevent the potentates of the East Indies in ancient times, from appreciating diamonds as highly as we do to-day. The Koh-i-Noor, now the most prized gem in the British crown, was never cut during the period of centuries in which it became the property of a series of Oriental sovereigns. It was cut twice after coming into British hands, and one part of it was found so much harder than the rest that it was almost impossible to work it.

During the last twenty-five years, ten tons of diamonds, worth three hundred million dollars uncut and six hundred million dollars after cutting, have been added to the world's wealth—an amount more than twice as great as were known to exist before.

$100 a Month and Expenses This Winter.

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SEND ONE DOLLAR cut this ad out and send to us and if you live East of the Rocky Mountains we will send this **HIGH-GRADE TOP BUGGY** to you by freight C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot and if you find it **EQUAL TO ANY $100.00 TOP BUGGY** you ever saw, perfectly satisfactory and the **GRANDEST BARGAIN YOU HAVE EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF,** pay the railroad agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE $55.00** and freight charges, less the One Dollar sent with order.

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THE MATERIAL AND LABOR IN OUR ACME QUEEN cost more than double that in the ordinary factory buggy. We use a $2.50 cushion cloth, some use 90 cent; we use a $1.50 head lining, some use 40 cent; we use 23 cent leather, some use 9 cent; we use $2.50 colors and varnishes, some use 75 cent and $1.00. **WE PAY ALMOST DOUBLE** the price most makers pay for Wheels, Axles, Springs, Dashes and Sockets, **because WE WANT THE BEST.** Our wheels, gear and bodies are **Water Rubbed and the Material and Labor in Painting OUR ACME QUEEN would paint three cheap buggies.**

$55.00 BARELY COVERS COST of material and labor, leaving us the smallest profit imaginable, but we are building 70 buggies a day and to advertise our buggy factory we are willing to **SELL THEM ON $1.00 PROFIT EACH.** We know $70.00 daily profit on 70 buggies will satisfy us, advertise us everywhere and build up the LARGEST BUGGY BUSINESS IN THE WORLD.

THE ACME QUEEN we build in narrow or wide track, cloth or leather trimmed, end springs, buffed leather quarter top, solid panel back, springs in back, **leather covered Bows and Nuts, Rubber Steps, Velvet Carpet;** body, 24x54 inches; No. 1 Sarven's patent screwed rim wheels, **painted in 16 coats,** body black, gear dark green with very delicate modest striping, complete with shafts, side and back curtains, boot storm apron and anti-rattlers and shafts. **POLE, NECKYOKE AND WHIFFLETREES IN PLACE OF SHAFTS, $1.75 EXTRA.** BUGGY WEIGHS 400 POUNDS and the freight will average for 200 miles, $2.00; 300 miles, $2.75; 400 miles, $3.25; 500 miles, $3.60; 1,000 miles, $6.00.

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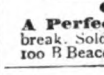


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This refined Cut Glass finish Cream Pitcher is like crystal diamonds in its sparkling beauty; and is just a neat handy size for table creamer. Its pattern is the latest thing in style, and having a **Quadruple Silver Plated Rim** to top it out makes it as dainty as it is chaste and beautiful. Heretofore anything in **cut glass** has been so very expensive that the price has prevented its general use. By the invention of special new machinery the high cost has been largely overcome and we can now present a premium of genuine worth to be given free for a few minutes work. This cream pitcher with its dainty silver topped rim is pretty enough to grace any table and it will give a fine effect and make a good setting to the rest of one's table fittings. It should sell for 67c, but we will send one free, all charges paid, for a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c each or send 33c for a year's subscription and we will send the creamer to you free. Address **GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.**



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Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph of medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. FREE. This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Clara S. Brown,	**$3.00**
Helen Clifford,	**2.50**
Mrs. C. C. Malone,	**2.00**
Mrs. M. W. Early,	**1.50**
Elisabeth Wood,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Again March is with us. Coming in, as it always does in the northern States, "like a roaring lion," we bear with its mad frolics and fierce storms with what patience we may, hoping that when its reign is over it will "go out like a lamb" to make way for gentle April.

Our first letter this month takes us not only far from our bleak northern March winds but also "far from the madding crowd," and introduces us to scenes and people with which few of us are familiar.

"One of the most interesting and beautiful parts of California is off the line of railway travel, and so difficult of access that comparatively few people are familiar with it. Here the conditions of life are quiet and primitive, having changed but little from the customs prevalent all over the State when it was admitted to the Union, in 1848.

"Pala is twenty-five miles from Oceanside, where one leaves the train that connects Los Angeles and San Diego. It is reached only by private conveyance or the mail wagon, and the road follows the windings of the San Luis Rey river, or climbs long, steep hills; for the country is a broken one that becomes fairly mountainous ere Pala is reached.



PALA MISSION.

"In the center of a lovely little valley stands the ruined Mission of Pala, a branch of the noble San Luis Rey Mission. The scene is very picturesque—the green valley, encircled by the willow-bordered river, and hemmed in by purple mountains, the scattered adobe ranch houses under their shade of spreading umbrella trees, and the crumbling old Mission, with its curious white bell tower, detached from the Mission building.

"The Pauma Indians worship at this Mission, and were holding their annual fiesta at the time of my visit. These Indians are a revelation in their cleanliness, intelligence and thrift. They are fine-looking and dress well, living in comfortable homes, where the men till the soil and the women make baskets and intricate patterns of 'drawn-work' for sale. Their children are sent to the country schools, and, when they are older, to the Government training schools, or convents.

"The funeral ceremonies of an Indian baby that took place in the Mission one morning were remarkable for being conducted by girls, in the absence of a priest. They sang hymns in Latin, Spanish and English; and intoned the Catholic ritual for the dead, closing with a prayer for the soul of the departed infant, followed by the Lord's



SEBASTIAN AND HIS GRANDSON.

Prayer. The mother knelt on the earthen floor during the services, with a black shawl thrown over her head, and was surrounded by kneeling friends. The little pine box, covered with white cloth and decked with rosettes of gilt paper, was borne to the burial ground by young girls and boys. After it had been lowered into the grave, men, women and children, in turn, took up a handful of earth, kissed it, and dropped it on the coffin. Then the mother's grief burst the bonds of native stoicism and she wailed unrestrainedly, while the crowd which had gathered turned to the merry-making of the fiesta.

"Large booths, called rematha*s*, had been constructed of tules and willow boughs over a framework, and in these dancing and feasting were kept up for four days and four nights. One dance, known only to a few old Indians, was performed every day by Sebastian and his grandson, to whom he had taught it. Sebastian is a hero, for few white men are capable of such an act of self-sacrifice as he once committed. His only son, the pride of his heart, stole a cow, and sold it. Sebastian was grief-stricken, and determined to save his son from a prison, which might ruin the young man's whole life; so he swore that he had stolen the cow, and was sent to San Quentin for two years. As if this were not enough, Sebastian's beloved wife died the day before he regained his liberty. The son married, and after some years died of consumption, confessing his guilt before he passed away.

"It is worth while to witness an Indian fiesta among these mountains at night. The rustic rematha*s*, surrounded by hundreds of brown-skinned men, women and children, the merry strum of the guitars and violins, the camp-fires, the soft Spanish accent on every hand, the ruined Mission walls and gleaming belfry, with the moonlight over all, form a scene that does not appear to belong to the New World."

CLARA S. BROWN, Los Angeles, Cal.

Now here is a letter which you ought to have had last summer; it was written then, but reached me too late to use. However, I think you will enjoy it equally as well now. Our cousin writes most charmingly of her day at Yale. She says:

"Class Day at Yale is certainly one of the most pleasant and picturesque events of the whole week. And this particular Class Day was no exception to the rule. From a Yale man's point of view it is the last time the class will meet together to crack jokes and indulge in good-natured 'horsing,' so with true Yale dash he enters into the spirit of the thing and makes it a day long to be remembered by the visitor.

"It was a beautiful June afternoon and the seats of the huge amphitheatre erected on the campus, were filled with men and women in gala attire; each one adding his or her share to the brilliancy of the scene. Near the entrance a band was stationed playing college songs and national airs. All around and above us, forming a perfect background, were the famous old elms of New Haven.

"In the center on long benches sat the seniors in caps and gowns smoking the long white clay pipes sacred to Class Day. Here and there, looking strangely out of place with the black-gowned students were men in uniforms of the Army and Navy. These were the members of the class who so quietly laid aside their books and studies and loyally responded to their country's call. For the time they were allowed to cast aside the discipline of camp and training-ship in order to graduate with their class.

"And what a happy, noisy, rollicking class it was! They roared with laughter when a class historian was unusually pungent in his 'hits.' When the name of a popular classmate was mentioned they shouted: 'Put him up! Put him up!' and were not content till he had been swung to his nearest classmates' shoulders and held up to the gaze of an admiring and amused audience. When the 'boys in blue, were put up the cheers were deafening, for visitors and fellow students joined in that tribute to the soldier boys of Yale. Meantime the class pipe, an immense affair, beautifully carved and decorated, had been going the rounds. Each student took a whiff and a puff and passed it on to his neighbor to do likewise.

"The exercises closed with the singing of the favorite college song 'Bright College Years,' and as I listened to that grand old hymn sung as only Yale men can sing it I wondered what the future held in store for the class of Yale '98.

"Oh, let us strive that ever we
May let these words our watch-cry be,
Where'er upon life's sea we sail:
'For God, for Country, and for Yale.'"

HELEN CLIFFORD, Gloversville, N. Y.

Here is an account of a wolf hunt written by a cousin in far-off North Dakota. He says:

"Let me tell you of a wolf hunt which took place here a few days ago. The North Dakota wolf, or coyote, as he is called by the ranchers, is a long, slim, sorry-looking animal, with coarse hair, a bushy tail, and a long, sharp face. He is not so ravenous as the black wolf of the forest, but is very troublesome to the ranchers' sheep.

"The ranchers living near the Plateau du Coteau had many sheep killed by the wolves, so they decided to hunt and kill some of them. They met at a place known as Long Lake Ranch, where they made preparations for the hunt. Some of the men rode in a spring wagon and others on ponies. They all armed themselves with clubs, but took no guns. They started early in the morning, accompanied by half a dozen hounds who were eager for the sport. After riding about three miles the hounds scented a wolf's track, and they followed it until they came upon a half-starved wolf picking the bones of a dead sheep which some other wolves had devoured the previous night. The wolf, seeing the crowd of hunters and the hounds approaching him, started to run, but the hounds gave chase, and soon seized and held him until the hunters arrived at the place and despatched him with their clubs."

M. H. WENDLAND, Carrington, N. D.

A very well-written letter on volcanoes comes from cousin Charles W. Pullen of Kentucky, but I cannot use it because he has only written what we can read in books on such subjects. Now if he would only climb a volcano for our benefit, and tell us what he *sees* up there I would be exceedingly glad to get his letter.

Now we have some extracts from a letter describing a trip from Mexico to the States, by the way of Monterey and Eagle Pass. I wish I could give you the whole letter, for it is very interesting, but my space, alas, is too limited to admit of doing so.

"We left Tampico about midnight—the next morning we found ourselves still climbing the mountains. When we reached the tableland it was a desolate scene. The bare, rocky mountains in the distance, bounding a level stretch of country, with no living thing except the cacti, and no habitation except the native villages. Such a clamor as arose each time the train stopped, from boys with fruits, hot tomales, and other things to sell! Some of these fruits are very delicious and refreshing. They must grow wild, as I saw no ground under cultivation; all the soil seems rich, but the lack of water in most parts of Mexico is the great trouble.

"The Mexicans at these stations seemed abjectly poor, and their houses were no better than pens, being built with the ground for the floor, poles stuck into the ground forming the sides, and a thatched roof; simply an opening for the door, and no windows. I sincerely pitied the loneliness of the Americans who have charge of these stations, which in this section are few and many miles apart.

"When within a hundred miles of Monterey the scene changed, and became as lovely and attractive as it was grand and desolate before. We passed beautiful haciendas surrounded by lands in a high state of cultivation, intersected in all directions by canals for irrigation. For many miles this side of Monterey the same state of cultivation delighted the eye, but the next morning, all was desolation again—and very hot and dusty, a most disagreeable portion of the trip. We crossed the line at Eagle Pass during the night, and had not the slightest trouble about our baggage.

"For miles and miles on this side the line it is very desolate, and closely resembles parts of Mexico, but after that is passed, the Southern Pacific, the railway over which I traveled from San Antonio, traverses a lovely country, and it looks like home. When we reached New Orleans, I could not but contrast this city, so full of life and energy, with the dreamy old cities of Mexico, which seem to me almost of another world; but there is a charm, which amounts to fascination, in this spell from dreamland, which Mexico throws over nearly all who visit her."

MRS. C. C. MALONE, Hudsonville, Miss.

Now we have a letter from our valued correspondent, Mrs. Early, describing Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Va. She says:

"Williamsburg was the old Colonial capital of Virginia, and Bruton Parish Church was built there more than two hundred years ago. It is in the form of a cross, and the eastern end is overrun with English ivy. As we enter four tablets in the wall arrest our attention. One of them bears the following quaint inscription, 'Near this marble lyes ye Hon'ble Daniel Parke, of ye county of Essex, Esq., who was one of his Ma'tie's Counsellors' and sometime Secretary of the Collony of Virg'a.



BRUTON PARISH CHURCH.

He dyed ye 6th of March, anno 1679. His other felicityes were crowned by his happy marriage with Rebekah, the daughter of George Evelyn of the County of Surry, Esq'e. She died the 2d of Jan., 1672, at Long Ditton, in ye County of Surry and left behind her a most hopeful progeny.'

"The next tablet is 'Inscribed to the memory of Dr. William Cocke, an English Physician born of reputable parents, at Sudsbury in Suffolk, 1672, and educated at Queen's College, Cambridge. He was learned and polite, of undisputed skill in his profession, of unbounded generosity in his practice, which multitudes yet alive can testify. He was many years of the Council and Secretary of State for this Colony in the reign of Queen Anne and King George. He died suddenly, sitting a judge upon the bench of the General Court in the Capital.' M. D. C. C. XX.

"Going out of the church, we find ourselves in a large, shady churchyard, containing many tombstones, some of them over two centuries old, and with inscriptions so worn by rains that 'Old Mortality's' help is needed to decipher them. The old silver communion service of the Jamestown Episcopal church now belongs to Bruton Parish church, and is very massive. The cup bears the inscription 'Mixe not holy things with profane.'"

MARY W. EARLY, Williamsburg, Va.

I have received a very pleasant letter from a Virginia niece on "a visit to Mars." It is well written, and shows a good deal of imagination and ability, but I cannot give it a prize because our page is not intended for stories; so I can only thank our cousin for her offer and ask her to try again.

Our last prize letter this month is upon Warwick Castle.

"Warwick Castle is in what a well-known writer has termed the Shakespeare country. It is only a few miles distant from Stratford, and is situated upon the same stream, the Avon—that flows through the poet's old home. Nowhere in England did I see more magnificent grounds than those surrounding this famous old Castle. The great stately trees, the beautiful flowers and shrubs, and the vivid green of the wide-spreading lawns, make a picture one cannot forget.

"While our party were wandering about here we sat down to rest beneath some very tall cedars. As we were looking up, admiring their beauty and size, an attendant of the castle passing by, informed us that the trees were the cedars of Lebanon, and the seeds from which they were first grown were brought by the Earls of Warwick from the Holy Land upon their return from the Crusades.

"Warwick Castle is in a state of perfect preservation, and all is grand and palatial. We entered first the Great Hall, a magnificent room rich in historical treasures in the way of books and antiquities. We were especially interested in a saddle used by Queen Elizabeth while on her journey from Warwick to be present at the great festivities at Kenilworth. Then there was an enormous suit of armor, a walking stick and a porridge-pot said to have belonged to Guy, Earl of Warwick, who lived in the tenth century, and who was a giant nine feet high.



WARWICK CASTLE.

"As we passed out of the Great Hall we saw at the end of the long corridor the life-size portrait of Charles the First, painted by the great Dutch artist Van Dyke. So real was the picture it seemed almost as if the figure were actually riding towards us. Passing on we visited the Red Drawing Room and the Green Drawing Room, both of which contain magnificent paintings by Raphael, Rubens, Van Dyke, and other famous artists. In the Cedar Drawing Room is an exquisite bust of a goddess, the work of Hiram Powers, the American sculptor whose Greek Slave, we remember, made his name a famous one. One hall in the castle is called the Amour Passage. Here is a very large collection of ancient armour, cross-bows, battle axes, pikes, arquebuses, daggers, etc.

"But few rooms of the castle are open to visitors, as the greater part of it is made up of the private apartments of the Earl and his family. With all the magnificence and beauty of Warwick Castle we learned that Lady Warwick was discontented there. She much preferred the excitement of London life.

"'Well I declare,' remarked an old lady in our party, 'I must say it takes a great deal to satisfy some folks.' And we all agreed with her.'"

ELIZABETH WOODS, Batavia, N. Y.

Now let us listen to a North Dakota cousin while she tells us of the woodmen's picnic and parade which she lately attended.

"The night before we camped on the shore of the lake near where the woodmen's picnic was to be, and in the morning we passed through the picturesque town of Bigstone, which seems a collection of villages whose odd houses are perched upon hills overlooking the lake or nestle in the valleys, and where the very sidewalks resemble bridges.

Leaving Bigstone the road wound through beautiful scenery, where now and then we caught a glimpse of some lovely home half hidden among the trees and vines. We passed over a river, the outlet of Bigstone Lake, and soon after entered Ortonville, two miles from Bigstone. We followed the gayly-dressed crowd to the park, arriving there just in time to hear the finale of a modern woodman's speech and some fine music by the cornet band.

"After lunch came the woodmen's parade. The boy band of Ortonville was followed by men in white uniforms trimmed with red, and tall caps adorned with big red tassels on top; a banner, the cornet band, a pair of goats, and then men wearing immense boots and carrying an ax so large that it took two men to hold it upright, went by; and then we returned to our camp from which we watched the fireworks in the evening.

S. R. PALMER, Marvin, S. D.

I must not forget to thank my niece, Marion Wilkerson, of Garvin, Texas, for her pleasant letter on the home of Edgar Allan Poe, of which I can only find room for the following extract.

"In the Northern District of New York City is a small old Dutch Cottage of three rooms, with a porch extending along its entire front, which was the home of Edgar Allan Poe and his lovely wife during the last four years of the poet's life. We followed up the little winding stair to the attic room which Poe used for his study, and where he wrote his most noted works.

"The house, I think, has recently been purchased and opened to the public by the Shakespeare Society of New York."

Here is an extract from another beautifully written letter on Venice, but which does not win a prize as it is only the result of reading and not of a personal visit. It says:

"Venice is the most novel city in the world, being the only one that has its streets of water instead of land. Venice has a population of one hundred and fifty thousand, and has one hundred and fifty canals. The largest of these is in the shape of the letter S, and runs through the most beautiful part of the city. These canals intersect one another at many angles, and four thousand gondolas are constantly busy conveying passengers to and fro about the city, which is built upon one hundred and seventeen islands, large and small, which are now protected on every side by solid stone masonry.

MATILDA M. WEST, Long, Ga.

Now my space is filled so I must keep the rest of my letters for another month; and with heartiest good wishes for the happiness and welfare of each and all of the cousins I will say good-bye.

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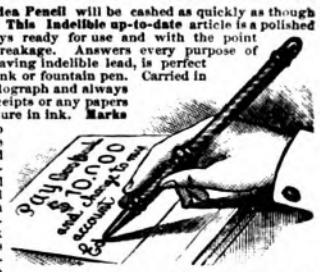
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NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

IT is pretty early yet to talk about vacations—but still a little planning does no harm. Why not take it a-wheel this year? And if you have a wife or sister or daughter, plan to take her along too.

Few women have yet learned the possibilities of the wheel in this direction, and, as a rule, confine themselves to the minor pleasure of short daily runs in the immediate neighborhood of home.

The contrast between a short run and a week's tour is as great as that felt by a yachtsman taking an occasional sail down the bay or a delightful month's cruise along the coast. Starting away into the open of vague uncertainty carries with it a delightful feeling of elation and freedom; one leaves behind the tameness of security, and eagerly challenges the unknown of time and events.

In wheeling, as in many other sports, the first requisite is sound health. No woman should undertake a tour who is not fortified with a strong constitution. She should be in such good condition as to meet with indifference the discomforts incident to a traveler dependent upon chance accommodations; she should have a surplus of energy to resist fatigue, a fortitude equal to occasional hard work or ill luck, and the power to brave inclemencies of wind and weather.

As early in the spring as the weather permits, daily rides on the wheel should be taken, at first very moderate as to distance and duration, and as varied as possible as regards the nature of country ridden over. One soon learns what she is equal to, whether fifteen miles or fifty a day is her limit, and it is always safer to keep well within the limit; whether she can climb a hill or must walk it—and here pride must sometimes be set aside, for all women have not the same limit of endurance.

If you are going abroad, it is well to join one of the foreign Tourist Clubs. Membership in the French club (obtainable through Col. Francis M. Hesseltine of Boston), is very helpful. The Italian road-book is also excellent. For travel in Germany and Switzerland it is desirable, in addition to the above-mentioned road-books (French and Italian), to make frequent reference to the sectional bicycle maps, published in Leipsic.

If one is going to travel in England it is very desirable to become a member of the English Touring Club (C. T. C.), and it will be better to secure one's membership through the United States Consul (Mr. Frank Weston of Boston), before leaving this country. In this way one has her membership ticket ready for immediate use on landing; and having secured the road and hand books of the club, she can from them more easily plan a trip.

The road-book gives routes all over England, with mileage and minute descriptions of the roads; the hand-book is very useful in giving addresses of local consuls and name of club hotels.

C. T. C. membership entitles one to reduced rates at club hotels. These hotels are almost invariably good, usually the best the town affords.

There are two essentials for a successful trip still unmentioned—a pocket-book not large; and last, but most important of all, a companion whose congeniality has previously been put to the proof.

COMFORT readers, however—that is, the mass of them—will pass their vacations on this side. But remember there is a great deal of enjoyment to be had in a week's trip a-wheel in our country districts and broad prairies.

Somebody has been collecting the superstitions that pertain to a bicycle. It seems that bicycling superstition, as a special and altogether distinct form of superstition, is a recognized fact of the road.

Naturally there are many ridiculous beliefs with which men and women are afflicted that they carry into cycling with them, such as the carrying of some lucky pocket piece or charm.

Such notions are not, however, distinctive as cycling superstition. They were born in the mind of their victims before they ever rode a wheel. There are some superstitions, though, that are peculiar to cyclists.

One of the most common is that about turning around. The academy-taught rider always, and the average rider usually, prefers a turn to the left. In their neophyte days most riders have met with a fall because of attempting to turn to the right, and this has led many into a fearful state of mind that makes them prefer to dismount rather than risk the consequence of a turn to the right.

The consequence is that the superstition about turning around is not only the most common, but also the most dangerous. There have been many mishaps on the road due to the inability of a rider to wheel right about, or his obstinacy in trying to wheel about left.

One man, who asserts to be a philosopher, says that he is not superstitious, and is especially innocent of the old country superstition about crossing a funeral, but he admits that he always waits until one passes, just out of respect for the circumstances. Then he tells with grave earnestness a story that details how he rode along Fifth Avenue and encountered "a funeral cortege" that was crossing at 9th street. He slowed his wheel and questioned himself concerning whether or not he should cross it. While he was deliberating, two other cyclists traveling in opposite directions attempted to cross between the carriages. They collided and fell, and one was struck by the hoofs of a funeral coach horse and severely hurt. This happening, he thinks, justified the deference that is not superstition.

A stout man of my acquaintance knows that every time he wears a certain shirt he is bound to get a puncture, and some of his friends tell a story about his having missed a century run because this puncture-causing shirt was the only clean one that he possessed.

Still more comical in the line of puncture superstition is that of a man who chews gum to prevent punctures. The use of chewing gum for repairing punctures is well known, but this individual, who is an expert billiardist, to use his own expression, "gives that play a grand discount."

He is a twin in superstition to the man who believes that if he forgets his umbrella it is bound to rain, but that he can prevent the clouds from weeping by carrying it. In his own words his story is: "I am a gum-chewing fiend, and the two times when I got punctures were the only two times for months that I was out riding without any in my mouth. It may seem foolish, but I won't mount my wheel now until I have a wad of gum in my mouth."

There is a rider, too, who will not pump his tires before going out, believing that if they have not remained hard it presages misfortune; and there are said to be others who entertain similar sentiments concerning filling a lamp and oiling bearings. This class of rider thinks that if he has neglected to have his wheel in perfect condition for an immediate mount he should not venture forth.

It is a common notion which amounts to a superstition that the only way to start on a trip is to conceive the idea suddenly, grab one's wheel and mount it without examining any part. So many good times have been had following impromptu starts of this kind that hundreds believe any other kind of a start to be unlucky.

One of the curiosities that will abound at the great exposition in Paris next summer will be the "great human fly of Berlin." This is a young woman who rides head downward, suspended from the ceiling. We already have all sorts of bicycle freaks over here, but it has remained for Annette Paula, a German girl, to out-do them all. She has a track built from a ceiling seventy-five feet high and calmly rides her wheel over it suspended bottom side up and darts about like a human fly. A stout net is stretched below about twenty-five feet to catch her in case of accident. She uses an ordinary diamond frame wheel attached by some sort of harness to a track. She also has a stout leather belt and two steel rods well padded from her shoulders that fasten her securely to the wheel. To say that she creates a sensation is putting it mildly.



HUMAN BICYCLE FLY.

It will be remembered that in a recent issue I gave a hint that farmers' wives might knit bicycle stockings for pay. Mrs. A Hamilton of Breckinridge, Minn., would be pleased to hear from any one desiring such work done.

As I have repeatedly said, it is impossible to give addresses of manufacturers of specialties in this department. They properly belong in the advertising columns.



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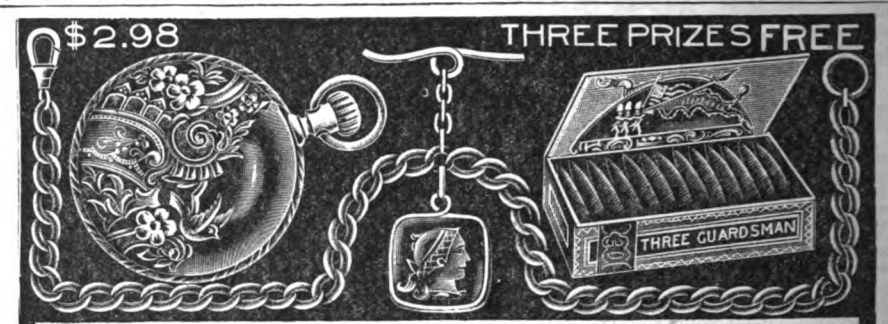
DEMAND FOR PLATING IS ENORMOUS. Every family, hotel and resaurant have goods plated instead of buying new. It's cheaper and better. **You will not need to canvass.** Our agents have all the work they can do. People bring it. You can hire boys cheap to do your plating, the same as we do, and solicitors to gather work for a small per cent. Replating is honest and legitimate. Customers always delighted.



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[We recommend above Company as thoroughly reliable.]—EDITOR.



To introduce our new **THREE GUARDSMEN CIGARS** to every smoker in the U.S. who enjoys a Good Cigar we make this offer for **60 DAYS ONLY**

3 Valuable Prizes FREE Send your name and address and we will forward you **express paid** these goods for examination: **One Box of Our New Three Guardsmen Cigars,** full size and weight; one gent's or boys' size stem wind, hand engraved **WATCH.** The cases are made of **14k. Gold** on the outside and inside over plate of fine quality nickel silver. A case that will last a lifetime. Fitted with good grade **American Lever Works** well finished and **a perfect timekeeper. One Rolled Gold-plate Dickens' Chain,** full length with bar and drop. **One Intaglio Stone Charm** with rolled gold mountings

Looks like a $50 WATCH. | Looks like a $20 CHAIN and CHARM. | GUARANTEE FOR 10 YEARS Goes with Every Watch. | All for $2.98

Ladies' size Watch with Fine Lorgnette Guard Chain and Box of Cigars $3.48.

The whole lot sent C. O. D. with privilege of examination, **express all paid.** If satisfactory pay express agent **$2.98** our introductory price. This offer costs money but it should bring us 100,000 new customers. Try it, you can make money selling our goods. **W. HILL MERCHANDISE CO., K-96 STATE ST., CHICAGO.**

Please mention COMFORT when you write. Please mention COMFORT when you write.



1899 EARN A BICYCLE! Mandolin, Gold Ring, Watch, Tea Set by selling a few boxes of our goods to your friends. Everybody needs and will buy them. No money required in advance. Write today for particulars. We have wheels for Men, Women, Boys and Girls.

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Carpets and Furniture from the Maker.



We save you 40 to 60 per cent. on everything. Our Lithographed Catalogue of Carpets, Rugs, Art Squares, Portieres and Lace Curtains shows exact designs in hand-painted colors. We **sew** Carpets free, furnish lining free and pre-pay freight. We are covering the civilized world with carpets—and why? Our catalogue will tell you.

We also issue a general catalogue of Furniture and everything necessary for a home.

Do you think we would spend a million dollars annually advertising these catalogues if they were not worth having? Both books are free. Which do you want? Address this way,

Carpets, 29c. to $1, JULIUS HINES & SON, Baltimore, Md. Dept. 389.

The Asbestos Pipe CANNOT be told from cigar, holds an ordinary pipe full tobacco and will last for years. Sample by mail with catalog to agents 10c. Stamps taken. Sells like hot cakes. Murphy Bros. Stamford, Conn.

JUST LIKE RAIN.



Every person who cultivates plants should have one of these Bent Neck Sprinklers for sprinkling plants or flowers in house or garden. Also useful to sprinkle clothes for ironing, spraying clothing or carpets to prevent moths, and to disinfect sick-rooms, etc. Much better than dipper or watering pot for every purpose. For plants, destroys red spiders, knits, caterpillars, etc. Sprinkles plants and flowers very quickly without injuring or soaking the earth and soiling everything else near. Constructed so simply of a rubber bulb and hard rubber spray that it cannot get out of order, and will last almost a lifetime. Acts exactly like nature and is the only true substitute for rain in plant life.

AN OFFER TO YOU. To induce you to take a six months' trial of our great Home Story Paper, we will send you one of these large size Sprinklers and the paper on trial six months, all charges prepaid, for only 63 cents. Don't neglect this. Address

NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

MORGAN & WRIGHT TIRE



Send One Dollar CUT THIS AD. OUT AND SEND TO US. State whether Gents' or LADIES' bicycle is wanted, gear and color wanted and we will send you this **OUR HIGH GRADE 1899 MODEL ACME PRINCE BICYCLE** by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, **the greatest bargain you ever saw** and equal to bicycles others sell as high as **$50.00,** pay your express agent our **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $18.75** and express charges, less the $1.00 sent with order. Express charges average $1.00 for 500 miles; greater or lesser distances in proportion.

MORGAN & WRIGHT'S Highest Grade, 1 year guaranteed, Pneumatic Tire. 22, 24 or 25-inch Diamond, 1⅛-inch seamless steel tubing frame, finest 2-piece Sealy hanger, finest crystal steel adjustable bearings throughout. **Wheels,** Rowel's best 28-inch. Full ball bearing throughout. Acker ball retainers throughout. Finest equipment. Index chain. Canton padded Saddle. Best handle bar made, up or down turn. Clark's anti-friction, ball bearing, ball retaining pedals, heavy leather tool bag, fine wrench, oiler, pump and repair kit. **Wheel is given finest possible finish, enameled black, green or maroon.** All bright parts heavily nickel plated on copper. **No wheel is more handsome. A BINDING ONE-YEAR GUARANTEE** with every bicycle. **If you don't find it equal to other $40.00 wheels DON'T TAKE IT.**

$8.25 Stripped, $11.75 and $16.95 Fully Equipped is our price for cheaper (1899) bicycles. **No old models, no worthless second-hand wheels. OUR FREE BICYCLE** catalogue shows our entire line up to $23.75. **WRITE FOR IT. ORDER OUR $18.75 BICYCLE AT ONCE, MORGAN & WRIGHT TIRE,** highest equipment; you will save $20.00. You can make $100.00 every month selling these $18.75 WHEELS at $25.00 to $35.00.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.) **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.) CHICAGO, ILL.**



PATENT APPLIED FOR

A BEAUTIFUL UPHOLSTERED PARLOR SUIT

JUST LIKE THIS PICTURE FOR ONLY 12c.

Every child wants to treat her dolly just about right and the nicest articles are none too good for them. We are pleased to present this entirely new idea in **Dolls' Stuffed Furniture.** The set consists of two chairs and a sofa, they come in handsome figured goods in beautifully colored patterns, they are all ready to be sent by mail and filled in with cotton for only 12c., for the three pieces. Just think of it only four cents each for the three articles did you ever hear of such a thing before. We will send the set all filled in for 36c. as the weight of the filling makes the postage that much more expensive.

The children are all delighted and want several sets each, better order a dozen for 85c. and see how quickly they sell. One set including a 3 months' subscription to SUNSHINE only 12c., three sets for 30c., 6 sets 50c., 1 doz. sets 85c., express or postpaid. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**

Where Money and Jewels are Kept.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



The DESIRE to be rich, to accumulate possessions, is a natural one and has always existed from the earliest times of which we have any record.

To be sure being rich has not always implied what it does now, and there have been various forms of riches, from the rude money of the ancient savages, to the stocks and bonds of this latter day.

But whatever stood for wealth has been greedily sought for by all. It might he herds of cattle, weapons of warfare, the ownership of land, boats, canoes, or ships; the saving of money, the accumulation of gems or works of art.

In the old days possession gave power, and in a limited degree, possibly, this is true at the present time, and has always been true. To gain possessions men have fought, labored, planned, and given the best part of their life. The methods they have employed have differed as the times in which they have lived have been different, but the end sought for has been still the same.

But with the accumulation of possession comes the added care and responsibility. Once gained it must be looked after, and means devised to keep it safe. One can have nothing in this world, without having at the same time a feeling of responsibility, and care becomes a constant companion.

In the savage days men made forays on their neighbors' lands and drove away all the cattle and herds. Forever after they must be on guard lest they in turn be robbed, and lose by violence and theft what they had gained in that same way. In these days there is no more feeling of security. If one acquires a piece of property, there is first the question of a clear title. Then comes the fear of loss by fire, flood or whirlwind. Does the young woman obtain a few thousand dollars' worth of gems and precious stones? Her dreams are of burglars, and she is in fear lest she lose her valued possessions. That seems to be, if it may be so expressed, a part of the price of wealth.

It is to restore as far as may be, the feeling of security, that so many plans of caring for this accumulation of riches have been devised.

The various "Title Insurance" companies that exist in every city of any size were formed to examine all titles to real estate, so that when one wishes to purchase a piece of property he may by the outlay of a few dollars, have the titles officially examined by men who understand the methods, and if they pronounce the title valid, the property may be safely purchased.

Then there are the fire insurances, with which all are familiar; the marine insurances, which insure ships and their cargoes, lessening danger of loss to those who follow the sea for a livelihood, and risk money on the ocean traffic; the hurricane insurance clause in connection with fire insurance, which insures against cyclones and other destructive storms. This is well as far as it goes, but what safety is there for the personal property, the money, the bonds and securities? The best in the world. It is to care for all such property that the Trust companies have been organized in all the cities in the Union. Some cities, like New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston have several of these companies. They are incorporated under State laws, and are subject to the same supervision by the Bank Commissioners as are all National and Savings Banks.

Their object is to do a general Banking and Trust company business. They receive money on deposit and allow interest on it, they give special rates of interest on time deposits, they are a legal depository for trust funds, corporations, firms and individuals; they accept trusts created by will, or otherwise, and assume the care and management of property, and collection of incomes, act as trustee under mortgages of any railroad or corporation, and as transfer agent of the stock of incorporated companies.

You see the work covers a great deal of ground. Although these Trust companies exist, as has been said, in every city, I have chosen one of Boston for description, as it embodies all the newest features of bank architecture, and is absolutely fire, water and burglar proof.

The building itself is very beautiful. It is of rich dark Quincy granite and pale yellow Indiana limestone, the combination giving an exquisite effect of color. The interior is all in tiling and mosaic, the floors being beautifully inlaid, while the walls show the most graceful designs. The stairways are of marble, and the railings of brass. There is very little wood used so that fire would have next to nothing to feed on. But the most wonderful part is that devoted to the vaults where all the valuables are kept.

There is one man only in this country who is an accepted bank vault builder; these vaults were built under his personal supervision, and are pronounced the most thoroughly constructed ever attempted.

And yet they look so airy and light, with the outer wall of tiling, the soft gray of the steel, the electric lights, the spacious rooms, and the air so pure and dry, unlike that of the ordinary vault; that it is not until you begin to look about and examine that you realize how strong it all is.

And this is the way the vault is built.

In the first place there is a wall of two feet of solid masonry. Then there is a cage made of interlocked railroad iron rails surrounding the vaults on all sides, front, back, top, bottom, sides and vestibules, inside the wall of masonry. These bars of iron are not riveted, in the old-fashioned manner, but are bent and welded, so that the joining is invisible. The iron surface is then thickly covered with cement, to cover any interstice which may be between the interlocked iron; then the whole is lined with plates of Crone steel, thoroughly tested and proven drill proof. The two outside vault doors are eight and a quarter inches thick, of solid metal, fastened by a combination of locks that would defy any burglar.

Inside the vault are little coupon rooms, where any depositor may sit, entirely concealed and securely locked, and cut coupons.

At the entrance are the vaults, inside the heavy grills of iron, which are locked, but swing open at the touch of the attendant to give entrance to the vault. But no one is allowed inside who is not known to the guard, and he must answer the description which, if he is a depositor, the guard has against his name.

Behind these polished steel grills, with their doors, is the deposit vault, holding several thousand boxes of various sizes which rent according to size from ten dollars to two hundred and fifty a year. Each of these boxes has a different lock, and none of them can be unlocked, except the master key be first applied. This key is kept by the guardian of the vault, and when a box renter wishes to open his box he notifies the guardian who unlocks the governing lock with the master key, and then the renter's key finishes the work.

There are several boxes which are known as trustee's boxes. These have three or more locks, according to the number of trustees who are interested. Each trustee has a separate key, and the box cannot be opened without the master key, and both of the other keys. Consequently no one trustee can open the box, except in the presence of the fellow trustee, and both, in the presence of the guardian.

Thus every precaution in the interest of honesty is taken.

There are inner vaults for the storing of plate, valuable bric-a-brac, and jewelry. Every woman of society who has valuable gems keeps them in the deposit vaults. They are very seldom out of their resting places. They certainly are not taken away with the owners when they go to other cities or to fashionable watering places. It often happens that the woman who has a fortune in jewels, has them reproduced in brilliants, and that it is these that she wears at the splendid functions which she graces with her presence. Mind you, she does not wear anything but the reproduction of what she owns; she is not going to risk the real ones by wearing them generally, or keeping them in her own private safe.

The locks to the immense doors are marvels of ingenuity, and of the lockmakers' art. They are set in many ways; sometimes for a certain hour, and they cannot be opened before that hour, no matter how much any one may wish to get inside. And the time lock must be opened before any of the letter or number combinations will work.

So you see the solid masonry defies fire, water and the "thieves who break in and steal." There is no need, in this stronghold, of flooding the vaults with water when the bank is closed, as they do in the Bank of England to insure the safety of the millions of treasure stored there.

And isn't it worth something to have a company that will give peace of mind and a feeling of safety, as well as to guard your possessions?

Anyhow there are a sufficient number of persons who think so to make the Trust Companies handsomely paying institutions.

"There is no great loss without some small gain."

And, yet, notwithstanding all this, it is a real comfort to those of us who haven't large possessions nor are likely to attain them, that we have no worry over what may happen. The ringing of the fire bells at night, the story of some bank robbery or defalcation pass us by, except as we have time to pity those who suffer.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

FREE—EDISON'S GRAPHOPHONE

Furnishes an evening's amusement for the family.

51-lbs. Best Granulated SUGAR $1.00

This unequaled offer is a part of our great $14.75 *Family Combination Grocery Order*

Send $1 with order.



Edison's Graphophone sings as Melba; plays Sousa's and Gilmore's Operas, Marches and Orchestrations, delivers Orations, relates jokes—in short it is a whole show in itself. Two records free if cash accompanies the order. Send $14.75 and receive the groceries, including 51-lbs. best granulated sugar and the celebrated Edison Graphophone; or send $1, and the goods will be sent subject to examination. This is the list of groceries with regular & cut prices compared:

	Usual Retail Price.		Usual Retail Price.
51-lbs. Best Granltd. Sugar..	$2.55	5-lbs. Silver Gloss Starch.....	.45
3-lbs. Mocha & Java Coffee.....	.90	2-lbs. Best Baking Powder.....	.80
12 cks. Toilet Soap (10c size)....	.50	1-qt. Bottle Best Blueing.....	.15
1-lb. Pure Ground Pepper.....	.30	1-lb. Ground Cinnamon.....	.40
10-lb. pail White Fish, new.. and latest catch, wooden.. pail with bail and handle...	1.00	1-bx. Shoe Blacking.....	.05
		12-bxs. Parlor Matches.....	.20
10 bars Santa Claus Laundry.. Soap (none better).....	.40	1-lb. Pure Ground Mustard....	.50
¼-lb. Whole Nutmegs.....	.35	1-pt. bot. Triple Ammonia....	.10
1-lb. Cleaned Eng. Currants..	.11	10-lb. bag Best Table Salt.....	.12
1-lb. Pure Ground Ginger.....	.40	1-lb. Best Shredded Cocoanut..	.40
3-lbs. Tea (any kind wanted)..	2.10	½-pt. Triple Extract Lemon...	.80
2-lbs. Rice (Japan).....	.20	" " " Vanilla...	.80
1-bx. Enameline Stove Polish..	.05	1-lb. Best Quality Raisins.....	.10
2-lbs. Best Corn Starch.....	.17	5-gal. Golden Drip Syrup.....	2.00
1-lb. Pure Ground Cloves.....	.40		
		Our Price	$16.30
		with Graphophone..	$14.75

AT OUR EXPENSE. If the groceries are not as represented return them at our expense and we will refund your money and you may keep the Graphophone. FREE—Our big catalogue of everything to eat, wear and use sent free.

John M. Smyth Company 150-166 W. Madison St. Established 1867. CHICAGO.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.



SELF-SEALING PIE TIN has a crimped rim which holds both crusts firmly together and prevents the rich juices from escaping. It is so constructed that the crust will always bake crisp and brown. Sample sent on receipt of retail price, 25c. We are the largest manufacturers of **Pure Aluminum, Scotch Granite** and **TinWare** in the world. **AGENTS,** write how to get this and four of our other best selling household novelties. —Outfit worth $2.00—**FREE.** All goods guaranteed to give satisfaction. Address Dept. X

HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.

This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Editor.



FREE to boys and girls—one of these handsome presents and many other Valuable gifts for selling a few of our **Silver Aluminum Thimbles** at 10c each, package gold eyed needles given **Free** with each thimble. Every lady buys soon as she sees it. **NO MONEY REQUIRED! We Trust You.** Simply send us your name and address and we will send them post paid with premium list and full instructions. When sold, send us the money and we will send you the present you select. We take back what you cannot sell. Address **AGENTS SUPPLY COMPANY, 58 Wabash Avenue, CHICAGO, ILL.**



$4.95 BUYS A MAN'S ALL WOOL SUIT

of Rich, Blue Serge, warranted best fast color, guaranteed equal in quality, style and looks to others' $10.00 Suits.

THE MATERIAL is Mali's best all wool blue serge, famous everywhere for its perfect weave, soft feel and rich, deep blue color. The cloth was woven by America's Best Woolen Mill from fine picked wool yarn, dyed by a new process and cannot fade. It is medium weight and suitable for year around wear; is firmly woven, will positively not fade or wear shiny, and will wear like leather. It's exactly the same cloth used in the serge suits that retail everywhere for $10.00. Remember we will sell only 1500 suits at $4.95—after they're gone the price will be $9.00. Don't delay, but order to-day before they are all gone.

EXPERT SUIT TAILORS will make the suit in the latest sack style to fit perfect; line it with Holman's celebrated farmer satin, pipe it with Skinner's AAA satin, pad it extra well, use best grade of canvas and sew every seam with pure silk and linen thread.

WE MAKE Other Suits from $5.95 to $13.95. Write for free samples of cloth.

SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. with your height, weight, chest, waist and crotch measure. We'll send the suit by express C.O.D. and allow you to examine and try it on before you pay one cent. If exactly as represented, the greatest bargain on earth and worth double the price we ask, then pay the express agent $4.95 and expressage, and take the suit. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory.

WE SELL 1800 SUITS AT $4.95 for advertising purposes. After they are gone the price goes back to $9.00—no more at $4.95 after 1800 are sold.

Order quick or they'll be gone. You can't afford to miss this wonder chance. The Louis R Vehon Co. 155 W. Jackson St. Chicago.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this NEW IMPROVED ROYAL GRAND 1899 MODEL HIGH-GRADE ORGAN, by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if you find it exactly as represented, one of the grandest instruments you ever saw, equal to any organ you can buy at home for $100.00 to $150.00, better tone, better finish, more durable and handsomer than any organ you ever saw advertised by any organ maker, pay your freight agent OUR SPECIAL 90-DAY OFFER PRICE, $46.85, less the $1.00, or $45.85 and freight charges.

THIS, OUR ROYAL GRAND ORGAN, is one of the largest, most elaborate, most durable, sweetest-toned instruments ever made, equal to organs that retail at $100.00 to $200.00. From the illustration shown, which is engraved direct from a photograph, you can form some idea of its beautiful appearance. Made from solid quarter-sawed oak, antique finish, or black walnut, as desired; elaborately carved and ornamented, hand rubbed, hand polished and decorated, latest 1899 truss frame, stands 7 feet high, 4 feet long and 2 feet wide and weighs 400 pounds. MADE BY THE BEST ORGAN MAKER IN AMERICA, has the genuine Skinner bellows of silk and rubber cloth, automatic air valve, Staylor pedal stops, Hazelton action—the finest known—simply super-excellent, producing perfectly the pipe organ and orchestral effects, perfect action, strong, difficult to displace. All metal parts are of finest tempered Straydon coppered and silvered steel wire.

THE ROYAL GRAND contains 5 octaves, 11 stops, 2 octave couplers, 2 knee swells, 4 sets of reeds as follows: 1 set round pipe-like Principal reeds of 24 notes, 1 set exquisitely pure, sweet Melodia reeds of 37 notes, 1 set rich, mellow, smooth Diapason reeds of 24 notes, 1 set charmingly brilliant Celeste reeds of 37 notes; 122 in all.

OUR ROYAL GRAND ORGAN possesses the good qualities of every high-grade organ made, with the defects of none. The highest grade work possible to produce. WE FURNISH FREE with every Royal Grand Organ a handsome organ stool, and the best organ instruction book published.

GUARANTEED 25 YEARS. With every Royal Grand Organ we issue a written binding 25 years' guarantee. By its terms and conditions if any part gives out we repair it free of charge. TRY IT ONE MONTH, and we refund your money if you are not perfectly satisfied. 500 of these organs will be sold for $46.85. Order at once; do not delay for one day.

OUR RELIABILITY IS ESTABLISHED. If you have not dealt with us, ask your neighbor about us; write the publisher of this paper, or the Metropolitan National Bank, National Bank of the Republic or Bank of Commerce, Chicago, or German Exchange Bank, New York, or any railroad or express company in Chicago. We have a capital of over $450,000.00, occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago and employ over 800 people in our own building.

We SELL ORGANS AT $22.00 AND UP; PIANOS $125.00 AND UP; also everything in musical instruments at lowest wholesale prices. Write for free special organ, piano and musical instrument catalogue. Address **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.**



$3 a Day Sure

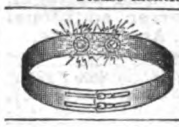
Send us your address and we will show you how to make $3 a day absolutely sure; we furnish the work and teach you free; you work in the locality where you live. Send us your address and we will explain the business fully; remember we guarantee a clear profit of $3 for every day's work; absolutely sure; write at once. **ROYAL MFG. CO., Box 613, Detroit, Mich.**

$9.00 It Seems Impossible



but it is true that For 30 Days we will sell for $9.00 a new, modern, high arm sewing machine, head, stand and table full size, and we send to any address on thirty days' test trial your choice of the high grade, finely finished machines illustrated in our catalogue, like picture or drop head styles, with free attachments and freight paid by us, No Money in Advance, ten years' guarantee, World's Fair medal. Write for catalogue. SHEPHERD MFG. CO., 295 E. 22ND ST., CHICAGO.

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THE ELECTRICITY from the batteries will turn a needle through your table or hand. Cures Rheumatism, Liver and Kidney Disease, Weak and Lame Back, etc. For advertising purposes we will give ONE BELT FREE to one person in each locality. Address E. J. SMEAD & CO., Dept. No. 236, VINELAND, NEW JERSEY.

FREE You can get this Gold Watch, Chain & Charm for selling my remedies. (I give splendid premiums or cash commissions. Write me and I will send six vials of Carson's Liver Pills to sell at 25 cents a vial. Send money when sold. If unsold return pills. My letters will explain all. A. M. CARSON, 37 Flournoy St., CHICAGO.





SPANISH NEEDLES, GOLD-ometers, etc., for gold hunters and treasure seekers. Latest improved. Circulars free. P. & M. AGENCY, Palmyra, Pa.

FITS A Great Remedy Discovered. Send for a FREE package & let it speak for itself. Postage 5c. DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ills.

GOES AWAY WITH GLASSES. NOURISHES, STRENGTHENS SIGHT. EYE FOOD CO. CINCINNATI, O. CURES DISEASED VISION. WRITE FOR DESCRIPTION. EYE FOOD

HAIR LIKE THIS



WE WILL FORWARD ---FREE-- To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp for sealed package. Address P. LORRIMER & CO., 109 Park Ave., Baltimore, Md.

STAMMERING I make a legal contract to cure Stammering in FIVE DAYS, or get no pay. Free Pamphlet. Gibbon's Stammering School, Room 63, Mass. Bldg. Kansas City, Mo.

LADIES wanted every where to mail circulars, samples and copy letter at home. Reply with stamped envelope. PEERLESS COMPANY, South Bend, Indiana.



A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

SILVER CAKE BASKET FREE FREE



We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have [illegible] of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE CHOICE OF BOOKS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY CHARLES HODGDON.



HOW often we have wished we could go to some one who would be able to advise us what to read. What books to obtain for our guides, what to choose for our companions.

This comes home to those of us especially who never can go to college, either for the reason of the condition of our circumstances, or because it is too late. And we fall to wondering if it is any use to try to educate ourselves; then hope which springs eternal, urges us on and we remember how many of the world's great men were self-educated, how Prof. Dorpfeld never went to college and is the greatest living authority on Greek antiquities. We are reminded that it was only a short time since he lectured at Harvard College, how her most learned professors felt honored to sit at his feet and learn from him who never had received the advantages they had. The world is full of proofs of men who have become learned and great and never had the college degree of A. B. bestowed on them.

We who have toiled and wandered among the wastes of books so long, and lost so much of our lives in our quest, may perhaps give warnings to younger travelers; for the difficulties of literature are as great as those of life itself.

You may ask, will book learning help me to win my living? Of course it will. Some of the ablest men in public affairs could earn their bread as men of letters; Henry Cabot Lodge and many others of our statesmen could without doubt earn large incomes from their literary work. Some of our best business men are accomplished bookmen.

Then again a knowledge of literature and a familiarity with history and facts will enable one to be more influential and to fill a larger position in public affairs. Literature, too, kindles thought and drives away sadness, and creates fortitude to bear the burdens of life.

The great difficulty, then, is to choose the books from the thousands with which our libraries are stocked; it is the multiplicity that makes the choice not an easy task. Now many literary men have prepared lists of books for inquiring readers. Sir John Lubbock, the English scientist and man of letters, made a list of books called, "The Best Hundred Books."

It is questioned if that is a wise course to pursue; many students think that such a course kills individuality, a quality that should be carefully cherished and developed. It is rather better to give a few hints and put the wayfarer on the right track, and let him develop his character himself and so preserve his own individuality.

There are, however, a few books written about books which will give an insight into which ones you should read and own. Frederic Harrison, the English historical student and critic, has written two books which are invaluable to one who would be started right, "The Choice of Books" and "The Meaning of History," which will open up the way. It would also be hard to find a better list of books than Ralph Waldo Emerson describes in his essay entitled "Books."

After you obtain your books, you should read them, which alas! many do not. One potent reason is because they do not get books printed with good type. Not one person in one hundred, I venture, realizes that they would read a book with good print where they lay aside a book printed with small, battered and worn out type. You will be surprised how much pride and satisfaction you will take in books with sharp, clear type, good paper and good binding. There are publishers who make it their aim to get their books up in a neat, workmanlike manner and with exquisite taste. The Globe edition of the poets, Shakespeare, Milton, Burns, Spencer, Wordsworth, Shelley, etc., are a delight to handle. Then there are the Bohn Libraries, which contain translations of nearly all the ancient Classics, which Emerson and Carlyle took pains to recommend to their readers. These editions are all inexpensive. Do not think of getting those miserable twenty-five cent wood pulp, abominably printed books. You cannot get interested in their contents and you conclude you are to blame, when it is really the fault of the books.

You can get good books very reasonably if you only know how to set about it. If you live away from a large city, insist that your dealer gets what you want. If there is no book-dealer in your town, a letter addressed to the large publishing houses in New York, asking for their catalogue, will give you a chance to make a selection. If you have a bookseller he will be glad to procure these catalogues for you.

Now the point is not that every one should have a large number of books, but it is that they should have the right ones; fifty well-chosen books would be a little treasury.

Charles Eliot Norton, professor of Fine Arts at Harvard University, once said that Homer, Dante, Shakespeare and Milton were enough to make any one a valuable citizen. Emerson says:

"Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries in a thousand years have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette, but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age."

Furthermore a book worth reading once is worth reading twice, and the masterpieces you can read a thousand times.

Rufus Choate, one of America's most noted lawyers, it is said, attributed his success to the fact that he managed someway to get an hour a day to read a standard book. He was busier than most of us. Now cannot you manage to read one half-hour each day? If you read one book from Homer's Iliad, or a book from Virgil's Aeneid or something from Tennyson or Wordsworth, say the lines on Tintern each day and multiply that by three hundred and sixty-five, you would make such progress you would surprise yourself, be a source of pride to your friends, and a help to the world.

Do not neglect the Ancient Classics because you cannot read Latin and Greek. Mr. Emerson says he would as soon swim across a river, instead of going over on the bridge, as to read a book in the original, when he could get it in the mother tongue.

Be not discouraged because you may forget what you read; it is no more necessary to remember where you obtained your intellectual food, than it is to be able to recall what you have eaten, in order to know your bodily strength.

Literature is one of the instruments of mankind; can you afford to let others arm themselves, while you are defenseless? "Armed with reason and braced with knowledge", stand forth in all the panoply of steadfastness and courage.

A New Illuminant.



FOR the same degree of light from the new acetylene gas, there is much less heat given out than from the common illuminating gas. The illuminating power to a cubic foot of gas is as twelve of acetylene to one of the common kind. The incandescent electric lamp at its best illumination casts a shade in the light of the usual acetylene flame of one inch square; while the latter is fully as steady, when supplied from the tanks of liquor the form in which the gas is furnished to customers. When vent is afforded to the contents this expands to gas, making 400 times the bulk of the liquid. It is practically non explosive. The tanks are iron cylinders, with pressure gauge attached. The vent is at the top of the cylinder if upright, or in the upper side, if horizontal—where connection is made by iron, brass, rubber or similar pipe or tubing, with single burner, or with chandelier, or piping for several lights, or even the entire piping of the house. There are also single stationary and portable lamps with tanks connected. So compressible is this gas that a three months' supply for a large house can be stored in a cylinder six inches in diameter and four and a half feet long; and it can be delivered by wagon, or by railroad, express or freight, as the case requires. The price for this quantity of liquified gas is ten dollars—the tank and fixtures being five dollars, and barring accident, will last a lifetime. Fifteen cents' worth of the acetylene liquid will give as much light as a thousand cubic feet of common illuminating gas—the price of which varies from about one dollar to five dollars per thousand. The gas arises directly from the decomposition of water by carbide of calcium—a substance made by fusing coal dust and lime together in an electric furnace.

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Huge large squares such as our grandmothers used in a thousand ways for patchwork. We give away to any one who will send six cents for one package of these great squares. This is to introduce our mammoth illustrated catalogue into new homes where bargains are wanted and to obtain your address to send future favors to. Be sure to get one or more of these packages, we will send to your friend for an additional six cents. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Me.

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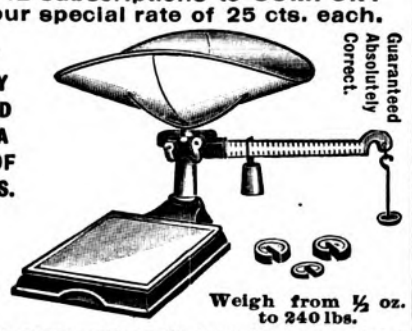
LADIES, send us your full address PLAINLY WRITTEN, and we will express you 75 boxes of our peerless SOPONO (in SOLID FORM, for CLEANING, PRESERVING AND BEAUTIFYING THE TEETH) to sell among friends, at 10 cents each; when sold, remit us the money (after deducting express charges) and we will send you a lovely DECORATED and Artistic CHINA TEA SET of 68 pieces for your trouble. Tea sets are full size for family use. Name nearest express office and address,

SOPONO COMPANY, Bridgewater, Conn.

$5.00 PLATFORM COUNTER SCALES Free!

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EVERY FAMILY SHOULD HAVE A PAIR OF SCALES.



Guaranteed Absolutely Correct.

Weigh from ½ oz. to 240 lbs.

Will save many times their cost in a few weeks' use. Weigh your Grocery and Meat purchases. It will pay you to weigh everything you buy and everything you sell.

THESE SCALES RETAIL AT $5.00 and are the very best grade on the market. They are All-purpose Scales, take the place in many respects of a regular platform scale, as they weigh accurately from ½ oz. to 240 pounds. Made with finest steel bearings, heavy brass beam, heavy tin scoop, set of weights, and weigh boxed for shipment, 43 lbs.

SPECIAL OFFER. We will send these regular $5.00 scales and COMFORT for one year for only $2.75.

DON'T FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OFFER.

Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Me.

Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



RIO, WIS., June 20th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than $30.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as $350.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.

Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 2c stamp for reply.

We have hundreds of letters similar to Mr. Doyle's.

WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than $ every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a $30,000.00 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA

Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to $5.00 and upward; Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. We show a large line of suits at from $5.00 to $8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloonings, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Net Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $1.00 to $5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK from us of AT LEAST $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., **CHICAGO, ILL.**

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outnit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

..... Sign your name on above line.

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Your age .....

Married or single .....

Address your letters plainly to

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..... On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

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Bicycles $13

Complete and ready to ride. Take an agency, sell Bicycles and make big money. You can sell lots of them. We sell only one agent in a place. Send quickly for 7 color catalogue and confidential prices.

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FREE WATCH



Don't send a cent! a rare chance. For lady or gent, a heavy plated dust-proof case, American movement guaranteed with a guarantee to equal for time any solid gold watch made if you sell only 12 boxes of Vegetable Pills at 25 cts. a box. Write to-day & we send Pills by mail at once, when sold send us the money & we send you the watch same day money is received. American Medicine Co. Dept. W, Sta. O, N. Y.

ASTHMA Instant relief and positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. F. G. KINSMAN, M. D., Box 727, Augusta, Maine.

GOLD WATCH OR RING FREE!



SEND NO MONEY

We give a Beautiful Gold Plated Watch, fitted with a genuine American movement for selling only 20 packages of our Wonderful New Perfume at 10 cents per package. Each watch is perfectly timed, regulated and guaranteed for one year just the same as an Elgin or a Waltham. We give a gold filled ring guaranteed to wear two years set with a Genuine Zambezee Diamond for selling only 10 packages at 10 cents per package. These rings can not be told from $100.00 diamond rings even by experts and can easily be traded for other valuable property. Send No Money. Simply send your name and address on a postal card and we will mail you the perfume and our large premium list of useful and handsome presents. You sell perfume and send us the money then we mail the present at once. We take perfume back if you can't sell. Address plainly UNION PERFUME CO., Dept. C, 112 Dearborn St., Chicago.



(This firm is reliable and will do as they agree.—EDITOR.)

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

AN OFFER TO EVERY LADY. If you will send us only 25 cents we will send you one Outfit all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid. Address COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

THE STRIKERS' VICTIM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



"SPEAKING of strikes," remarked my chance acquaintance, as he closed the window and settled himself back in his seat, "calls up an incident in my own experience that has effectually destroyed any sympathy I might otherwise have for either party to such a rupture. Did you notice those old-fashioned mills, or rather, their ruins, about three miles back? Probably not, as in the face of our modern institutions of that nature they are insignificant enough, but in their day they were of considerable importance, I assure you. Why, at one time they were giving employment, directly or otherwise, to about every man in the valley. That was just before the beginning of the strike about which I am going to tell.

"It was forty years ago—oh, yes, we had strikes then sometimes, though they were not under the organized management of the present day. Neither side was answerable for any act, except to the law, which you know in such cases is very apt to be disregarded. I don't remember what first started the controversy. It does not matter, anyway; it was started and all at once the mills were forced to shut down, and the teamsters and farmers suddenly found their source of supply cut off and were compelled to suffer equally with those who were in the strike, though probably the greater part of them never knew what the quarrel was about.

"Things began to look desperate in the course of a week or two for the families that depended on the mills for their living, and the managers decided to send away for what new men were necessary to take the places of those who still refused to work, hoping in this way to, at least, provide employment for their faithful hands. I was offered the position of foreman and promptly accepted it, as I was at that time young and of just the right disposition to rather enjoy the prospect of a contest with the strikers, coupled with no little personal risk.

"The evening of the day on which I received the offer found me at the station we have just passed, awaiting the arrival of the train up the branch from the mills. The train was long past due and in my eagerness to reach the scene of my future labors every minute I was forced to wait seemed fully equal to ten.

"'Waiting to go up to the mills?' said a voice beside me. 'It's no use to-night. They dars'n't run the train. You see the men have word that a new foreman is to come up this evening and they have made a vow that he won't reach there unless he walks over. The engineers all know the men mean business and you may take my word for it, there won't a train go up the branch to-night.'

"I ought to have known better than to fall into the trap set for me, especially as I felt at the time the fellow was lying, but somehow the over-due train and my own impatience prompted me to act on a course that my better judgment could not for a moment have endorsed; that is, walk.

"It was now quite dark; that is, as dark as it would become, for there was a full moon. With my attention divided between indignation at this early interference with my discharge of my duties and an attempt to formulate some course of action appropriate for the morrow, (which I now felt convinced would bring an open contest), I walked rapidly up the track, and in the course of half an hour found myself at a lofty trestle less than a mile from the mill.

"Probably my attention was almost anywhere except where it ought to have been—on my own surroundings. At this point I was suddenly startled by an unnatural flash of light before my eyes, followed by absolute darkness. Half unconscious as I was I vaguely realized the exact cause of it all. I had been approached from behind and struck with a club or some such weapon. When I came to myself it was to face some half-dozen rough, hard faces and to find that I was bound and gagged.

"'Fool!' hissed one of them in my ear. 'You thought the train would never come, but it is coming, and your own miserable carcass shall be made to hurl it from the trestle to its destruction. Hark! Do you hear it?'

"Yes, I could hear it thundering along far down the valley but every moment getting dreadfully near, for at the same time I realized that my assailants had bound me hand and foot to one of the rails just at the end of the trestle.

"There was no hope and such a death!

"Were you ever forced to lie perfectly helpless and listen to the approach of certain death? I reckon not, nor have I ever had the enemy that I would like to have endure even an instant of the torture I endured that night. It seems to be natural to shun death. It is sometimes difficult to become reconciled after a desperate battle with disease has robbed us of a part of our vitality, and left us less to live for. But to the young, with most of the privileges of life untasted and all life's golden opportunities for action still open, it is even more terrible to give up. Add then, to this, the inability to stand and face death the while his instrument could be distinctly heard approaching and its progress traced with a completeness quite foreign to the subtle advancement of disease, and there is added an actual horror that can never be appreciated until realized. Already I could feel the earth tremble beneath the tread of the approaching monster. My time indeed was very short. The fiends who had placed me there had left the spot, satisfied that they had done their work well. Ah! truly I should never hold the foreman's place in the mills. My head was in such a position that I could not see ahead, but I was sure that I could feel the glare of the headlight, and it added to my terror as it glided up. Would reason stay with me till the end or would the engine strike the body of a madman? And then, a soft hand touched my own and a young girl's face, the loveliest that I have ever seen before or since, bent over me while those white hands tore wildly at the fastenings that bound me. The train came nearer, nearer, was upon us, almost, but the knots would not yield. 'My God! Too late!' She almost shrieked. 'My father. Forgive him, won't you, for my sake?'

"One moment she stood there, I well knew imploring forgiveness for the man whose hands had helped secure me there, and the next, the train had come. Stupidly I watched it glide up, on, on, across the trestle and finally come to a standstill.

"Indistinctly I heard the trainmen running back to where I lay. Dimly I realized that they were cutting the ropes; that I was free. And the girl; the beautiful face: why did not she return? Suddenly there flashed upon me a certain degree of returning sense and I sprang to my feet. Alas! Full well I realized the whole truth then. The track was double and my captors by mistake had tied me on the wrong track. But the girl, in that step back during her last appeal for the father whose deed she abhored, had placed herself in the way of the locomotive and been knocked from the trestle.

"True to the memory of that appeal I never have yet divulged the name of my captor of that night, though I thought at the time he would have preferred to have me do so.

"At the funeral of the single victim of his plot the element of lawlessness died away among the strikers and peace was restored. The same day I severed my connections with the place forever.

"Sometimes—to-day for instance—there is a longing to go to that grave but something always seems to stand before me and motion me back, and I have never gone.

"That, then, is why I have so little sympathy with either side in labor troubles when violence is resorted to. For in a moment I had learned to love that girl and to hate all that for the sake of the gain could cause so much of purity and truth and innocence to suffer."

Wireless Telegraphy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONLY a short time ago the world was startled by a series of successful experiments which were held which demonstrated the possibility of wireless telegraphy. The spot chosen for the experiments was on the shores of Long Island, and water was the medium used for carrying the current.

Two copper plates were submerged in the salt water, several miles apart, and were connected by an insulated copper wire. The circuit also contained a battery and a telegraph key. The current from the battery, then, when the key was closed, passed from the battery to the end of the wire, to the submerged copper plate, and then back to the other copper plate and the battery through the water.

A current passing through the water does not go back in a straight line, but spreads out in radiating rays, as do the ripples of water when one throws a stone into a quiet pond. So the water between the two submerged copper plates is permeated in all directions by the electrical current.

To illustrate this point more fully, take a straight bar magnet and lay it upon a table. Cover it with a sheet of paper and sprinkle upon this iron filings. Tap the paper gently and the filings will distribute themselves in the same manner that the current distributes itself through the water.

On this principle it has been demonstrated that an impulse sent through a shore wire ten miles long can be felt ten miles from shore.

By means of a receiver dropped into the water within the area covered by the radiation of the impulses, the message of the shore wire may be read. For very long distances, delicate instruments, such as are used for taking messages from ocean cables, would need to be used; for comparatively short distances a telephone receiver, with its resistance greatly reduced was found to fill all needs.

To the telephone receiver, connected by insulated wires, were attached two copper plates which were hung in the water parallel to the shore wire and in the area of the radiating impulses. The opening and the closing of the telegraph key on shore could then be plainly heard.

The inventors or discoverers were satisfied that their theories in regard to this matter were correct, and though the experiment did no more than convince them that they were in the right track, it was regarded as highly important and most significant.

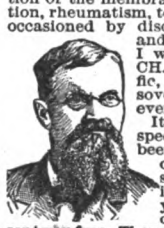
MAINE DAY.

Feb. 15th was Maine day. One year ago that date our proud ship was blown up in Havana harbor. Since, we have had war, now it's peace. We have some war buttons, 10 kinds, gotten up for the times and cannot fail to please. We will send you two large and two small all different if you will send 13c. for mailing with our Giant Bargain Book. Better write to-day, money back if you wish SUNSHINE BUTTON DEP'T., Augusta, Maine.

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It is the product of the greatest of specialists in these complaints and has been used for years with most marvelous success. You should avail yourself at once of this splendid offer, for it costs you nothing and may save your life. There is no C. O. D. catch or fraud about it, the medicine is sent you free. Thousands of testimonials from men and women of all ages.

DR. D. A. WILLIAMS, East Hampton, Conn.

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This firm is reliable.—Editor.

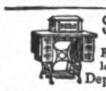
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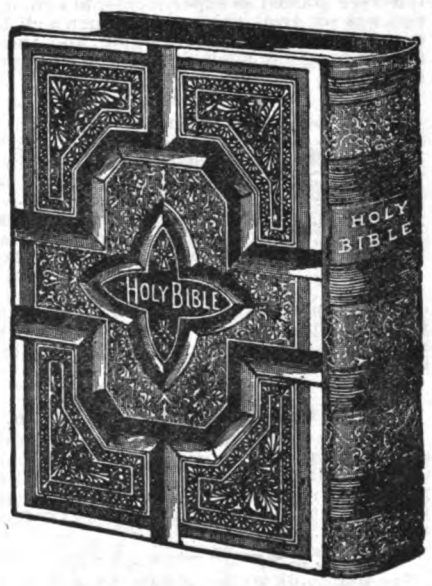
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Every Lady needs just such a Watch. No matter if she has a $50.00 one it won't keep any better time and this is for use and every-day wear. It will last a life time. It is an entirely new pattern. The Pin is good size, strong and handsome. Yes! pretty as a picture! Best of all, we got a Bargain on them, for the Makers are anxious to get them introduced, so we can sell hundreds where one goes first. We will send one, packed in the satin-lined, Morocco covered case **free**, if you get up a club of only 10 subscribers to COMFORT at the special price of 25 cents per year. You can easily sell this Watch for $5.00 if you want to, but after you get it you won't part with it for any money. Send us the 10 names and $2.50 and the watch is yours, free. If any man has a sweetheart and wants to make her happy, he should get her this Watch at once. Sent for $2.38 cash. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND
A FAMILY BIBLE FOR $1.89.
DELIVERED AT YOUR HOME.



This edition excels all others in the excellence of paper and exquisite topography, being printed from an entirely new set of plates costing $20,000. The size of page is 12x9 inches, the print large and clear, and there are TEN BEAUTIFUL FULL-PAGE PHOTOGRAVURE PICTURES of rare artistic excellence and some of the **most superb masterpieces of Modern Paintings,** being in harmony with the justly celebrated OXFORD TEACHERS' BIBLES. They are bound in fine **Morocco Buckram Paneled Sides,** and contain the Old and New Testaments, authorized version, the best concordance extant, and the following helpful features: A table of the passages in the Old Testament quoted in the New; a Chronological Index; an analysis of the Old and New Testaments; an account of the date of writing the books of the New Testament; an index of the Holy Bible; a short description of the Holy Land; a table of kindred forbidden to marry; table of Scripture weights and measures; an alphabetical table of proper names; also a very neat, plain **Marriage Certificate and Family Record.** Our New Bible is just what the people want; excellent paper, handsome illustrations, good, clear print, handsome and durable bindings, and last but not least, an EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY RECORD, entirely different from that contained in any other Bibles in the country. The print is of large size, clear and distinct, just right for grandfather and grandmother to read without their glasses, while the full-page engravings will interest and instruct the little children. It is the book for every member of the family.

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THE CHOICE OF BOOKS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY CHARLES HODGDON.



HOW often we have wished we could go to some one who would be able to advise us what to read. What books to obtain for our guides, what to choose for our companions.

This comes home to those of us especially who never can go to college, either for the reason of the condition of our circumstances, or because it is too late. And we fall to wondering if it is any use to try to educate ourselves; then hope which springs eternal, urges us on and we remember how many of the world's great men were self-educated, how Prof. Dorpfeld never went to college and is the greatest living authority on Greek antiquities. We are reminded that it was only a short time since he lectured at Harvard College, how her most learned professors felt honored to sit at his feet and learn from him who never had received the advantages they had. The world is full of proofs of men who have become learned and great and never had the college degree of A. B. bestowed on them.

We who have toiled and wandered among the wastes of books so long, and lost so much of our lives in our quest, may perhaps give warnings to younger travelers; for the difficulties of literature are as great as those of life itself.

You may ask, will book learning help me to win my living? Of course it will. Some of the ablest men in public affairs could earn their bread as men of letters; Henry Cabot Lodge and many others of our statesmen could without doubt earn large incomes from their literary work. Some of our best business men are accomplished bookmen.

Then again a knowledge of literature and a familiarity with history and facts will enable one to be more influential and to fill a larger position in public affairs. Literature, too, kindles thought and drives away sadness, and creates fortitude to bear the burdens of life.

The great difficulty, then, is to choose the books from the thousands with which our libraries are stocked; it is the multiplicity that makes the choice not an easy task. Now many literary men have prepared lists of books for inquiring readers. Sir John Lubbock, the English scientist and man of letters, made a list of books called, "The Best Hundred Books."

It is questioned if that is a wise course to pursue; many students think that such a course kills individuality, a quality that should be carefully cherished and developed. It is rather better to give a few hints and put the wayfarer on the right track, and let him develop his character himself and so preserve his own individuality.

There are, however, a few books written about books which will give an insight into which ones you should read and own. Frederic Harrison, the English historical student and critic, has written two books which are invaluable to one who would be started right, "The Choice of Books" and "The Meaning of History," which will open up the way. It would also be hard to find a better list of books than Ralph Waldo Emerson describes in his essay entitled "Books."

After you obtain your books, you should read them, which alas! many do not. One potent reason is because they do not get books printed with good type. Not one person in one hundred, I venture, realizes that they would read a book with good print where they lay aside a book printed with small, battered and worn out type. You will be surprised how much pride and satisfaction you will take in books with sharp, clear type, good paper and good binding. There are publishers who make it their aim to get their books up in a neat, workmanlike manner and with exquisite taste. The Globe edition of the poets, Shakespeare, Milton, Burns, Spencer, Wordsworth, Shelley, etc., are a delight to handle. Then there are the Bohn Libraries, which contain translations of nearly all the ancient Classics, which Emerson and Carlyle took pains to recommend to their readers. These editions are all inexpensive. Do not think of getting those miserable twenty-five cent wood pulp, abominably printed books. You cannot get interested in their contents and you conclude you are to blame, when it is really the fault of the books.

You can get good books very reasonably if you only know how to set about it. If you live away from a large city, insist that your dealer gets what you want. If there is no book-dealer in your town, a letter addressed to the large publishing houses in New York, asking for their catalogue, will give you a chance to make a selection. If you have a bookseller he will be glad to procure these catalogues for you.

Now the point is not that every one should have a large number of books, but it is that they should have the right ones; fifty well-chosen books would be a little treasury.

Charles Eliot Norton, professor of Fine Arts at Harvard University, once said that Homer, Dante, Shakespeare and Milton were enough to make any one a valuable citizen. Emerson says:

"Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries in a thousand years have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette, but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age."

Furthermore a book worth reading once is worth reading twice, and the masterpieces you can read a thousand times.

Rufus Choate, one of America's most noted lawyers, it is said, attributed his success to the fact that he managed someway to get an hour a day to read a standard book. He was busier than most of us. Now cannot you manage to read one half-hour each day? If you read one book from Homer's Iliad, or a book from Virgil's Aeneid or something from Tennyson or Wordsworth, say the lines on Tintern each day and multiply that by three hundred and sixty-five, you would make such progress you would surprise yourself, be a source of pride to your friends, and a help to the world.

Do not neglect the Ancient Classics because you cannot read Latin and Greek. Mr. Emerson says he would as soon swim across a river, instead of going over on the bridge, as to read a book in the original, when he could get it in the mother tongue.

Be not discouraged because you may forget what you read; it is no more necessary to remember where you obtained your intellectual food, than it is to be able to recall what you have eaten, in order to know your bodily strength.

Literature is one of the instruments of mankind; can you afford to let others arm themselves, while you are defenseless? "Armed with reason and braced with knowledge", stand forth in all the panoply of steadfastness and courage.

A New Illuminant.

FOR the same degree of light from the new acetylene gas, there is much less heat given out than from the common illuminating gas. The illuminating power to a cubic foot of gas is as twelve of acetylene to one of the common kind. The incandescent electric lamp at its best illumination casts a shade in the light of the usual acetylene flame of one inch square; while the latter is fully as steady, when supplied from the tanks of liquor the form in which the gas is furnished to customers. When vent is afforded to the contents this expands to gas, making 400 times the bulk of the liquid. It is practically non explosive. The tanks are iron cylinders, with pressure gauge attached. The vent is at the top of the cylinder if upright, or in the upper side, if horizontal—where connection is made by iron, brass, rubber or similar pipe or tubing, with single burner, or with chandelier, or piping for several lights, or even the entire piping of the house. There are also single stationary and portable lamps with tanks connected. So compressible is this gas that a three months' supply for a large house can be stored in a cylinder six inches in diameter and four and a half feet long; and it can be delivered by wagon, or by railroad, express or freight, as the case requires. The price for this quantity of liquified gas is ten dollars—the tank and fixtures being five dollars, and barring accident, will last a lifetime. Fifteen cents' worth of the acetylene liquid will give as much light as a thousand cubic feet of common illuminating gas—the price of which varies from about one dollar to five dollars per thousand. The gas arises directly from the decomposition of water by carbide of calcium—a substance made by fusing coal dust and lime together in an electric furnace.

BEAUTIFUL PIECES FOR PATCH WORK.

Huge large squares such as our grandmothers used in a thousand ways for patchwork. We give away to any one who will send six cents for one package of these great squares. This is to introduce our mammoth illustrated catalogue into new homes where bargains are wanted and to obtain your address to send future favors to. Be sure to get one or more of these packages, we will send to your friend for an additional six cents. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Me.

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1000 MORE HOME WORKERS to fill this contract knitting Socks, etc. Good Pay, Machine, Yarn, and Steady, Easy Work furnished. For position send stamp. Co-Operative Knitting Company, Dept. 4, Indianapolis, Ind.

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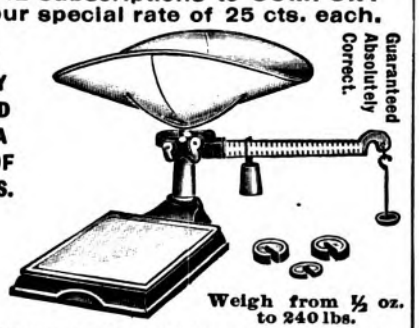


LADIES, send us your full address PLAINLY WRITTEN, and we will express you 75 boxes of our peerless SOPONO (in SOLID FORM, for CLEANING, PRESERVING AND BEAUTIFYING THE TEETH) to sell among friends, at 10 cents each; when sold, remit us the money (after deducting express charges) and we will send you a lovely DECORATED and Artistic CHINA TEA SET of 68 pieces for your trouble. Tea sets are full size for family use. Name nearest express office and address, SOPONO COMPANY, Bridgewater, Conn.

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EVERY FAMILY SHOULD HAVE A PAIR OF SCALES.



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Weigh from ½ oz. to 240 lbs.

Will save many times their cost in a few weeks' use. Weigh your Grocery and Meat purchases. It will pay you to weigh everything you buy and everything you sell.

THESE SCALES RETAIL AT $5.00 and are the very best grade on the market. They are All-purpose Scales, take the place in many respects of a regular platform scale, as they weigh accurately from ½ oz. to 240 pounds. Made with finest steel bearings, heavy brass beam, heavy tin scoop, set of weights, and weigh boxed for shipment, 43 lbs.

SPECIAL OFFER. We will send these regular $5.00 scales and COMFORT for one year for only $2.75.

DON'T FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OFFER.

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Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than $ every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a $50,000.00 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to $5.00 and upward; Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. We show a large line of suits at from $5.00 to $8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

RIO, WIS., June 20th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than $50.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as $350.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.

Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 2c stamp for reply.

We have hundreds of letters similar to Mr. Doyle's.

WE FURNISH YOU a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloonings, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Net Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $1.00 to $5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK from us of AT LEAST $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outnt, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

..... Sign your name on above line.

..... Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age .....

Married or single .....

Address your letters plainly to

....

On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

..... On above line give name of your nearest express office.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

Bicycles $13

Complete and ready to ride. Take an agency, sell Bicycles and make big money. You can sell lots of them. We sell only one agent in a place. Send quickly for 7 color catalogue and confidential prices. AMERICAN MACHINE CO., FLINT, MICH.

FREE WATCH



Don't send a cent! a rare chance. For lady or gent, a heavy plated dust-proof case, American movement watch with a guarantee to equal for time any solid gold watch made if you sell only 12 boxes of Vegetable Pills at 25 cts. a box. Write to-day & we send Pills by mail at once, when sold send us the money & we send you the watch same day money is received. American Medicine Co. Dept. W, Sta. O, N. Y.

ASTHMA Instant relief and positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. F. G. KINSMAN, M. D., Box 727, Augusta, Maine.



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SEND NO MONEY

We give a Beautiful Gold Plated Watch, fitted with a genuine American movement for selling only 20 packages of our Wonderful New Perfume at 10 cents per package. Each watch is perfectly timed, regulated and guaranteed for one year just the same as an Elgin or a Waltham. We give a gold filled ring guaranteed to wear two years set with a Genuine Zambezee Diamond for selling only 10 packages at 10 cents per package. These rings can not be told from $100.00 diamond rings even by experts and can easily be traded for other valuable property. Send No Money. Simply send your name and address on a postal card and we will mail you the perfume and our large premium list of useful and handsome presents. You sell perfume and send us the money then we mail the present at once. We take perfume back if you can't sell. Address plainly UNION PERFUME CO., Dept. C, 112 Dearborn St., Chicago.



(This firm is reliable and will do as they agree.—EDITOR.)

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
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4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
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1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
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1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
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THE STRIKERS' VICTIM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



"SPEAKING of strikes," remarked my chance acquaintance, as he closed the window and settled himself back in his seat, "calls up an incident in my own experience that has effectually destroyed any sympathy I might otherwise have for either party to such a rupture. Did you notice those old-fashioned mills, or rather, their ruins, about three miles back? Probably not, as in the face of our modern institutions of that nature they are insignificant enough, but in their day they were of considerable importance, I assure you. Why, at one time they were giving employment, directly or otherwise, to about every man in the valley. That was just before the beginning of the strike about which I am going to tell.

"It was forty years ago—oh, yes, we had strikes then sometimes, though they were not under the organized management of the present day. Neither side was answerable for any act, except to the law, which you know in such cases is very apt to be disregarded. I don't remember what first started the controversy. It does not matter, anyway; it was started and all at once the mills were forced to shut down, and the teamsters and farmers suddenly found their source of supply cut off and were compelled to suffer equally with those who were in the strike, though probably the greater part of them never knew what the quarrel was about.

"Things began to look desperate in the course of a week or two for the families that depended on the mills for their living, and the managers decided to send away for what new men were necessary to take the places of those who still refused to work, hoping in this way to, at least, provide employment for their faithful hands. I was offered the position of foreman and promptly accepted it, as I was at that time young and of just the right disposition to rather enjoy the prospect of a contest with the strikers, coupled with no little personal risk.

"The evening of the day on which I received the offer found me at the station we have just passed, awaiting the arrival of the train up the branch from the mills. The train was long past due and in my eagerness to reach the scene of my future labors every minute I was forced to wait seemed fully equal to ten.

"'Waiting to go up to the mills?' said a voice beside me. 'It's no use to-night. They dars'n't run the train. You see the men have word that a new foreman is to come up this evening and they have made a vow that he won't reach there unless he walks over. The engineers all know the men mean business and you may take my word for it, there won't a train go up the branch to-night.'

"I ought to have known better than to fall into the trap set for me, especially as I felt at the time the fellow was lying, but somehow the over-due train and my own impatience prompted me to act on a course that my better judgment could not for a moment have endorsed; that is, walk.

"It was now quite dark; that is, as dark as it would become, for there was a full moon. With my attention divided between indignation at this early interference with my discharge of my duties and an attempt to formulate some course of action appropriate for the morrow, (which I now felt convinced would bring an open contest), I walked rapidly up the track, and in the course of half an hour found myself at a lofty trestle less than a mile from the mill.

"Probably my attention was almost anywhere except where it ought to have been—on my own surroundings. At this point I was suddenly startled by an unnatural flash of light before my eyes, followed by absolute darkness. Half unconscious as I was I vaguely realized the exact cause of it all. I had been approached from behind and struck with a club or some such weapon. When I came to myself it was to face some half-dozen rough, hard faces and to find that I was bound and gagged.

"'Fool!' hissed one of them in my ear. 'You thought the train would never come, but it is coming, and your own miserable carcass shall be made to hurl it from the trestle to its destruction. Hark! Do you hear it?'

"Yes, I could hear it thundering along far down the valley but every moment getting dreadfully near, for at the same time I realized that my assailants had bound me hand and foot to one of the rails just at the end of the trestle.

"There was no hope and such a death!

"Were you ever forced to lie perfectly helpless and listen to the approach of certain death? I reckon not, nor have I ever had the enemy that I would like to have endure even an instant of the torture I endured that night. It seems to be natural to shun death. It is sometimes difficult to become reconciled after a desperate battle with disease has robbed us of a part of our vitality, and left us less to live for. But to the young, with most of the privileges of life untasted and all life's golden opportunities for action still open, it is even more terrible to give up. Add then, to this, the inability to stand and face death the while his instrument could be distinctly heard approaching and its progress traced with a completeness quite foreign to the subtle advancement of disease, and there is added an actual horror that can never be appreciated until realized. Already I could feel the earth tremble beneath the tread of the approaching monster. My time indeed was very short. The fiends who had placed me there had left the spot, satisfied that they had done their work well. Ah! truly I should never hold the foreman's place in the mills. My head was in such a position that I could not see ahead, but I was sure that I could feel the glare of the headlight, and it added to my terror as it glided up. Would reason stay with me till the end or would the engine strike the body of a madman? And then, a soft hand touched my own and a young girl's face, the loveliest that I have ever seen before or since, bent over me while those white hands tore wildly at the fastenings that bound me. The train came nearer, nearer, was upon us, almost, but the knots would not yield. 'My God! Too late!' She almost shrieked. 'My father. Forgive him, won't you, for my sake?'

"One moment she stood there, I well knew imploring forgiveness for the man whose hands had helped secure me there, and the next, the train had come. Stupidly I watched it glide up, on, on, across the trestle and finally come to a standstill.

"Indistinctly I heard the trainmen running back to where I lay. Dimly I realized that they were cutting the ropes; that I was free. And the girl; the beautiful face: why did not she return? Suddenly there flashed upon me a certain degree of returning sense and I sprang to my feet. Alas! Full well I realized the whole truth then. The track was double and my captors by mistake had tied me on the wrong track. But the girl, in that step back during her last appeal for the father whose deed she abhored, had placed herself in the way of the locomotive and been knocked from the trestle.

"True to the memory of that appeal I never have yet divulged the name of my captor of that night, though I thought at the time he would have preferred to have me do so.

"At the funeral of the single victim of his plot the element of lawlessness died away among the strikers and peace was restored. The same day I severed my connections with the place forever.

"Sometimes—to-day for instance—there is a longing to go to that grave but something always seems to stand before me and motion me back, and I have never gone.

"That, then, is why I have so little sympathy with either side in labor troubles when violence is resorted to. For in a moment I had learned to love that girl and to hate all that for the sake of the gain could cause so much of purity and truth and innocence to suffer."

Wireless Telegraphy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONLY a short time ago the world was startled by a series of successful experiments which were held which demonstrated the possibility of wireless telegraphy. The spot chosen for the experiments was on the shores of Long Island, and water was the medium used for carrying the current.

Two copper plates were submerged in the salt water, several miles apart, and were connected by an insulated copper wire. The circuit also contained a battery and a telegraph key. The current from the battery, then, when the key was closed, passed from the battery to the end of the wire, to the submerged copper plate, and then back to the other copper plate and the battery through the water.

A current passing through the water does not go back in a straight line, but spreads out in radiating rays, as do the ripples of water when one throws a stone into a quiet pond. So the water between the two submerged copper plates is permeated in all directions by the electrical current.

To illustrate this point more fully, take a straight bar magnet and lay it upon a table. Cover it with a sheet of paper and sprinkle upon this iron filings. Tap the paper gently and the filings will distribute themselves in the same manner that the current distributes itself through the water.

On this principle it has been demonstrated that an impulse sent through a shore wire ten miles long can be felt ten miles from shore.

By means of a receiver dropped into the water within the area covered by the radiation of the impulses, the message of the shore wire may be read. For very long distances, delicate instruments, such as are used for taking messages from ocean cables, would need to be used; for comparatively short distances a telephone receiver, with its resistance greatly reduced was found to fill all needs.

To the telephone receiver, connected by insulated wires, were attached two copper plates which were hung in the water parallel to the shore wire and in the area of the radiating impulses. The opening and the closing of the telegraph key on shore could then be plainly heard.

The inventors or discoverers were satisfied that their theories in regard to this matter were correct, and though the experiment did no more than convince them that they were in the right track, it was regarded as highly important and most significant.

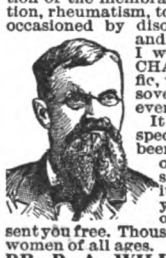
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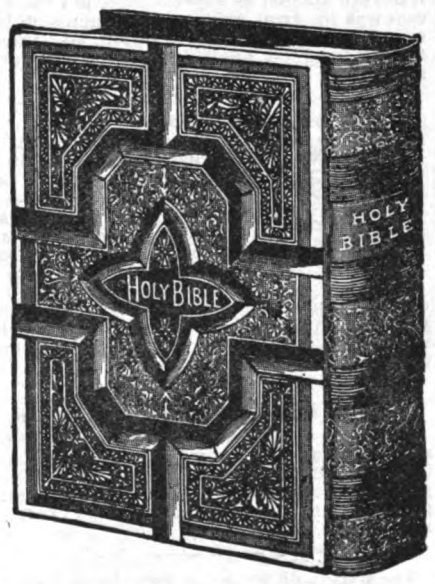
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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Now comes the blowy month of March, cousins mine, and though it may be ugly and bad, don't give it a thought. Spring is just ahead, and there is sunshine and sweetness, and birdsongs, and rosebuds in that to make the whole world glad. It is a blessed thing to us all, dears, if we can always look out of the shadows into the sunlight beyond; there is always sunlight, if we will only look for it. However, there is something else to do besides talk, so let us see who comes first.

It is from an "Old Maid of Sixteen" who lives in Plattsburg, N. Y., and she wants to know if she should drop a crowd of girls who laugh at her because she refuses to "run after the boys" with them. Yes, yes; drop them quick.

May Rock, Darrow, La.—It is quite proper for a young girl to send valentines to the boys, if the boys are her brothers. Otherwise it is just as well not to.

Bessie E., St. James Parish, La.—Don't send your photograph to a young man or write to him. If you are past twenty you might if you are old friends.

Violet, Manitoba, Can.—All I can say of the kind of trousseau you should get is to have it handsome and within your means and station. If you go East to get married you will have to buy your ticket, even if you use part of it on your bridal tour. A bride wears kid gloves with a satin dress. Married ladies do not act as bridesmaids. Let the young man see what good clothes you have and tell him he won't have to buy any for you till he is able. The house where you board should furnish the linen.

Bertha K. of far away St. Mary's, Colorado, has my thanks for a very nice letter she writes me.

Nellie Gray, Blue Ridge, Ga.—If people truly love each other it does not make any difference what they look like, or what size they are or what age. You are worrying about non-essentials. Thirty for the man and twenty for the woman are excellent marrying ages. Certainly I believe God intended certain people to marry. If He hadn't, they wouldn't have married. Yes I have kissed my sweetheart; or rather he has kissed me, but that was long, long ago.

Daisy, Newport, Ky.—It is hard to say where you could find a school where you could work for your education. The only way to find one is to get school advertisements from the magazines and write personal letters to the principals offering your services.

Questioner, Rochester, N. Y.—It is not necessary to rap on the door of a public office before entering. (2) There is no truth in fortune-tellers. (3) It is better for a girl of seventeen to wear her hair up.

Lula, Van Buren, Ind.—Nothing will prevent perspiration of the face except cold or absolute quiet. There is no complexion powder that perspiration will not spoil. (2) Actresses use paints and stains of all kinds, and no one kind very long.

Bere and Tella, De Soto, Ia.—It is quite proper for a lady to accept a gentleman's attention, notwithstanding he has for a time been paying attention to another. (2) Let any man go who hasn't mind enough to know whether it is you or another he admires the more. What do you want with that kind of a man?

Lena, Coffeyville, Ark.—It is proper to return all presents when you and the young man have broken with each other.

Butterfly, New Pine Creek, Ore.—It is not proper for a girl of fifteen to go sleighing with a young man, nor to take her friend's beau away from her, nor to go to dances or to kissing games, nor to be kissed good night. Neither should eleven year old kids read love stories.

Patty, Chilhowie, Va.—You say you are eighteen and engaged, but will not marry at present because you want to learn to be a trained nurse and work in hospitals. You are making a mistake there, my dear. You might go to a training school for nurses for a term, just to be handy, but that is enough. It is a hard life, even harder than marrying, so let it go except for a term, perhaps.

Sweet Marie of Helena, Mon., says she has been reading my Talks for a long time, and yet she asks me how she shall win the love of a young man who doesn't care for her, when I have said a thousand times, I guess, that it cannot be done, unless she is rich and he is for sale, and then he is lying when he says it. Neither man's nor woman's love can be won. It goeth only where it listeth.

Sweet Sixteen, Auburn, Ind.—So called Love Powders, may be harmless to the body, but they are deadly poison to the mind. Let them alone. (2) The events in your life cannot be foretold. (3) If, as you say, everybody in Auburn kisses everybody else good night, it must be proper. At least, in Auburn. It isn't so in this town.

Prudence, Shawtown, Ohio.—The sentiment of your poetry is all right, but don't write any more poetry until you have read the best English and American poets.

Esther, Saratoga, N. Y.—Don't worry over the kisses you lost in the crowd that laughed at you. And stay away from the place where you lost them. There is such a thing as too much familiarity among friends.

Blue Eyes, Falmouth, Va.—Study your books and don't ask questions about the boys till you are out of your teens.

Blue and Gray, Des Moines, Ia.—You write like very sensible girls, indeed, and I do not see why you are not fairly run away with by the young men. I think it would be wiser if you made no especial effort to meet young men. You are young yet and the Lord will send the right ones to you in due time. If He does not, you will never be unhappy over it.

Cousin Grace Ladd of St. Louis, Mo., requests the cousins to send any Red Cross literature they may have, or any articles about Miss Clara Barton to Mrs. M. J. Metzger, Collinsville, Ill.

Mamie, Quitman, Miss.—Schools of photography are few and far between and I do not know the address of one. Write to some of the photograph people who advertise and they may be able to tell you. I think photography is the best work for women and I do hope you will learn how and make a great success of it.

Annette O., Pittsburg, Tenn.—A husband cannot dispose of real estate on mortgage or sale without the wife's signature, which means her consent.

Lizzie C., Midland, Tenn.—I do not know the address of the electric oil painters you ask about. Ask the owners of the samples you saw.

Cousin Allie Schofield of Ten Mile, Ark., would like to have suggestions from the cousins for the organization and conducting of a reading circle in her neighborhood.

Cupid, Napa, Cal.—You would not be happy if you married the young man you ask about. Wait three or four years. (2) It is quite proper for a gentleman to help a lady on with her jacket. (3) A caller should go home not later than half-past ten o'clock.

Lonely Girl, Bleda, Mo.—Do not marry the other man until you have asked the man you have loved since you were a little girl. Sometimes these older men don't quite understand that the children they knew have grown to maturity.

Howard, Bremond, Texas.—The sample you send is not quite poetry, but it has merit, if the ideas are all your own.

Frances, Saratoga, N. Y.—You should neither permit a young man whom you do not know to put on your skates or to skate with you. Have you no acquaintances who could extend such courtesies? (2) The hair is brown.

Phœby G., Ascalon, Ga.—Since you are so sure that this rich gentleman of sixty would be perfectly willing to make you the mistress of his fine mansion if he knew you wanted to be, why not delicately ask him for the high honor? Nothing venture, nothing have, you know.

F. D. G., Meadow Station, Va.—Write to Charles Gillette, 15th and H. Streets, Washington, D. C., for the information you seek.

Anxiety, Pleasanton, Ks.—There is no way open to you except to wait five years and trust in Providence.

Cousin Emily of St. Paul, Minn., informs Cousins Gladys and Muriel that the National flower of Germany is the Bachelor Button, *Die Kornblume*. She asks what is the national flower of Austria. Who can tell?

Inquisitive, Ankeney, Ia.—A young lady should not accept a ring from a man unless engaged to him. (2) A lady has no right to be impolite to a man simply because she doesn't like him, so long as he is polite. (3) Yes. (4) A young woman may become a successful doctor of medicine and I should advise her to become one if she can. (5) Yes. (6) Under some circumstances. (7 and 8) No.

Flower, Mt. Vernon, Mo.—Seventeen year old girls can get along very nicely without beaux. (2) Give your mother a chance. (3) You might accept the escort of boy friends if your brothers will not take their place.

Reader, Covington, Va.—It isn't necessary for the man to say anything when he offers his arm to a lady. (2) She might accept slight assistance in going up or down steps, if she is old and feeble. (3) There is no "best work" on etiquette. Observation and practice do the work. Any book on etiquette will give all the points needed.

Inquirer, Falls Mills, Va.—There is nothing new in inscriptions for engagement rings. The old ones cannot be improved on.

Violet, aged fifteen, of South Manchester, Conn., asks me so many questions that all I can say is she must get her knowledge of them by growing older, which she cannot help doing for they are questions any girl of sixteen ought to know.

There, my dears, all of you are answered and it has taken so much space that I can only say by-by till next month, and the Lord keep you.

COUSIN MARION.

Women's Clubs.



CLUBS for women are not of so recent date as might be imagined. As far back in the history of this country as 1685 the clergy of New England advised their female parishioners to meet together to study scriptural topics, and accordingly there were many weekly meetings of the good sisters for this purpose, which were, no doubt, edifying to the participants. In the eighteenth century there were quilting parties at which one of the ladies read aloud while the others worked. Theological writings were given the first place, but poetry and fiction were occasionally allowed. Then the town-meeting gave an opportunity to the woman property-holder to both speak and vote. Prayer-meetings and experience-meetings, conference-meetings and class-meetings also gave women many a chance to speak their minds openly. Then came, in the present century, "literary evenings;" and at last, after the close of the civil war, came the urgent need of women's clubs, pure and simple. The Sorosis of New York, the Woman's Club in Boston and Brooklyn were started as experiments, but their success was so great that now women's clubs are everywhere, their name is legion, and their influence for good is felt in every corner of our land.



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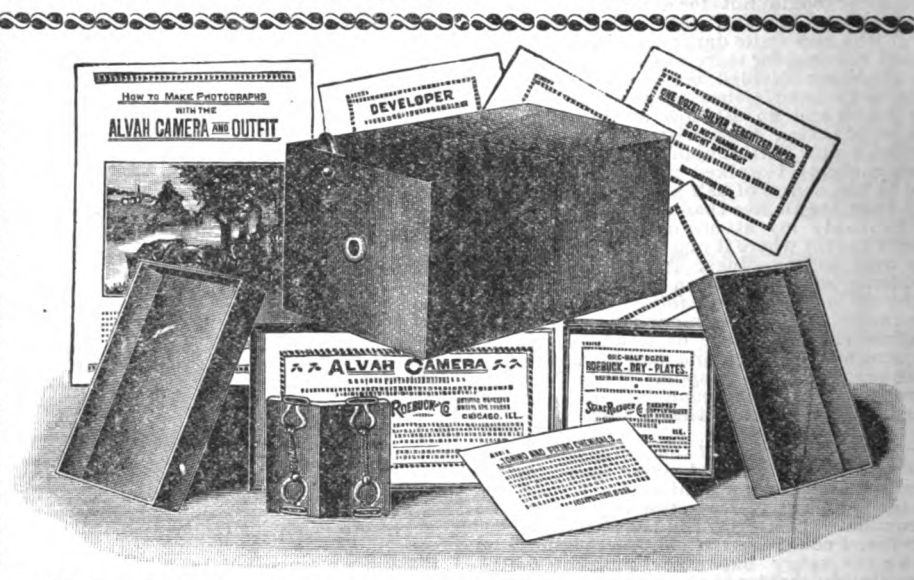
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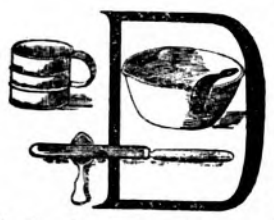
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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



URING the cold weather candy can be more easily made and kept, than when it is warm, and nowadays many people prefer to make their own candy, particularly when there are children to eat it, as then it is known to be absolutely wholesome.

There is a "knack" at candy making, which comes only with experience. One may give an absolutely correct and minute resume of everything she does and every ingredient she uses in making delicious candy, and someone else may follow directions exactly, and yet the result will be anything but satisfactory. There is much that cannot be told—that must be learned from *experience*.

The length of time for cooking depends largely on the kind of fire and the temperature, as evaporation takes place fast or slow, according to the atmosphere; therefore, it is next to impossible to tell any one just how long to boil the mixture, and yet everything depends upon just that one thing—the boiling.

In previous numbers we have given recipes for Candied Orange Peel, Fudge, Maple Cream with Nuts, and other delicious confections. Now comes Maple Sugar with Walnuts, which fairly melts in the mouth. To make this, boil, without stirring, one pound maple sugar, grated, with one-half cup boiling water, until a little, taken up and cooled, can be made into a soft ball, between the thumb and finger. Take from the fire and stir until thick enough to drop from a spoon in round shape. Press a walnut meat into each round before it hardens.

VELVET MOLASSES CANDY.

Put into a kettle one cup molasses, three cups sugar, one cup boiling water and three tablespoons vinegar. As soon as the boiling point is reached add one-half teaspoon cream of tartar. Boil until, when tried in cold water, the mixture is brittle. Stir constantly, when



VANILLA WAFERS.

in this stage, and when about done add one-half cup melted butter and one-fourth teaspoon soda. Pour into buttered pan to cool, and then pull. Just before pulling, add one-half teaspoon lemon extract, or one teaspoon vanilla, or, if the flavor is liked, a few drops of oil of peppermint.

So many people really like peppermint that a reliable recipe for making peppermint drops may be of use to some one.

PEPPERMINTS.

Put one and one-half cups sugar, and one-half cup boiling water into a saucepan and stir until sugar dissolves. Boil ten minutes; remove from fire, add six drops oil of peppermint and beat until of right consistency to drop from the tip of a spoon onto buttered paper in small round particles.

Vanilla wafers are pastry, but are so delicate as to seem more like candy. They may be made into delicate rolls, as shown in our illustration, or cut into small fancy shapes with the little cutters now so much in use. Those in the shape of a star are attractive, also the heart, diamond, club and spade shapes, which are only an inch and a half wide.

Cream one-third cup butter and lard in equal proportions; add one cup of sugar, one well-beaten egg, one-fourth cup of milk and two teaspoons vanilla. Mix and sift two and one-half cups flour, two teaspoons baking powder and one-half teaspoon salt. Add to first mixture, chill thoroughly and then take one-fourth the mixture at a time onto the board. Roll very thin and cut with fancy cutters. Bake on a sheet in a moderate oven.

The round red Edom cheese makes a very good serving dish, after the cheese has all been taken out. From this may be served macaroni or spaghetti, mixed with grated cheese and tomato sauce—or cooked fresh fish, warmed up in white sauce. The shell may be used several times, as it is very hard, and can easily be rinsed out with lukewarm water, after serving, care being used regarding the color on the outside, however, as it sometimes runs down onto napkins or serving doileys.



CHEESE SHELL.

Speaking of cheese reminds me of some dainty cheese sandwiches served at a luncheon, a short time since, and which were served hot. They were made by cutting a slice of bread of medium thickness into oblong shape—and with a sharp knife removing a square out of the center, leaving a shallow box. Fit into the box a thin slice of American cheese, season with salt and paprica, fit the cover on to the box, brush over with the white of egg and brown in hot fat. Drain on paper and serve at once. If preferred, the sandwiches may be prepared as above and toasted, instead of fried.

A Curious Error That Led Columbus to Undertake His Voyage of Discovery.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



T an early period the subject of the earth's size had stirred the minds of thinking men. Various ancient investigators had by different methods reached measurements more or less near the truth; these methods were continued into the middle ages, supplemented by new thought, and among the more striking results were those obtained by Roger Bacon and Gerbert, afterward Pope Sylvester II. They handed down to after-time the torch of knowledge, but, as their reward among their contemporaries, they fell under the charge of sorcery.

Far more consonant with the theological spirit of the middle ages was a solution of the problem from Scripture, and this solution deserves to be given as an example of a very curious theological error, chancing to result in great good. The second book of Esdras, which among Protestants is placed in the Apocrypha, was held by many of the foremost men of the ancient Church as fully inspired; though Jerome looked with suspicion on this book, it was regarded as prophetic by Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, and Ambrose, and the Church acquiesced in that view. In the Eastern Church it held an especially high place, and in the Western Church, before the Reformation, was generally considered by the most eminent authorities to be part of the sacred canon. In the sixth chapter of this book there is a summary of the works of creation, and in this occur the following verses:

"Upon the third day thou dids't command that the waters should be gathered up in the seventh part of the earth: six parts hast thou dried up and kept them, to the intent that of these some being planted of God and tilled, might serve thee."

"Upon the fifth day thou saidst unto the seventh part where the waters were gathered, that it should bring forth living creatures, fowls and fishes: and so it came to pass."

These statements were reiterated in other verses, and were naturally considered as of controlling authority.

Among the scholars who pondered on this as on all other things likely to increase knowledge was Cardinal Pierre d'Ailly. This great man, while he denied the existence of the antipodes as St. Augustine had done, believed firmly in the sphericity of the earth, and, interpreting these statements of the book of Esdras in connection with this belief, he held that, as only one-seventh of the earth's surface was covered by water, the ocean between the west coast of Europe and the east coast of Asia could not be very wide. Knowing, as he thought, the extent of the land upon the globe, he felt that in view of this divinely authorized statement the globe must be much smaller, and the land of "Zipango," reached by Marco Polo, on the extreme coast of Asia, much nearer than had been generally believed.

On this point he laid stress in his great work, the Ymago Mundi, and an edition of it having been pubished in the days when Columbus was thinking most closely upon the problem of a westward voyage, it naturally exercised much influence upon his reasonings. Among the treasures of the library at Seville, there is nothing more interesting than a copy of this work annotated by Columbus himself; from this very copy it was that Columbus obtained confirmation of his belief that the passage across the ocean to Marco Polo's land of Zipango in Asia was short. But for this error, based upon a text supposed to be inspired, it is unlikely that Columbus would have had the courage to undertake his voyage. It is a curious fact that this single theological error thus promoted a series of voyages which completely destroyed not only this but every other conception of geography based upon the sacred writings.

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SOMNAMBULISM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IT is very difficult to distinguish between fact and fiction in narratives of what persons have done in their sleep. A propensity to get up and walk about while asleep is not at all an uncommon thing, especially with young persons, who commonly grow out of the predisposition for nocturnal activity. But many of the more serious cases of adult somnambulism have undoubtedly been of so striking a character, and had effects so startling and dramatic, while poets and playwrights, novelists and painters, have so mingled fiction with fact, that nobody can be quite sure how much of such accounts is true. If any reliance whatever may be placed on the narratives of those whose testimony certainly ought to be trustworthy, the most remarkable flights of fiction can scarcely have gone far beyond the range of simple fact. Macnish relates an instance of a somnambulist who left his house at twelve o'clock at night, walked through a difficult and dangerous road, and swam a mile and a half. He was discovered at two o'clock in the morning by Custom House officers who sent off a crew to pick him up, which they did, though he was then fast asleep, and could afterwards hardly be persuaded that he was not in bed. This seems a very extravagant story; but there is some reason for regarding it as by no means beyond the bounds of credibility. The records of the Old Bailey afford testimony to the fact that a brother of Lord Culpepper was acquitted of the murder of one of the Guards whom as well as his horse, he had done it when fast asleep. Stories of people who have composed songs and poetry or written essays during sleep are innumerable. A well authenticated case of mental exertion on the part of a somnambulist is that of Dr. Haycock, an Oxford professor of medicine, who was sometimes known to rise in his sleep and preach a vigorous and impressive sermon, which all the efforts of his friends could not prevent running its full length. A very singular instance of brain work during sleep was recorded in 1844. An inhabitant of the island of Syra, described as about eighteen years of age, tall and robust, soon after commencing a course of study, was frequently known to rise in his sleep and declaim passages from Xenophon, though quite incapable of doing so when awake. On one occasion he rose from his bed, wrote the theme required of him the next day, and then went to bed again and overslept himself. Vexed at thus finding himself behind with his work, he sat down to his task, but was overwhelmed with astonishment at finding his essay already written with his own hand, and folded already for his professor, to whom presently it was duly delivered. It proved to be of unusual merit, and led to a few questions on the subject, which, however, greatly embarrassed the student, who appeared to know very little about it, and would have got into serious trouble but for the testimony of a companion who declared that he had actually seen him rise in the night and write it. This same youth was fond of a game of cards when in a sleep-walking state, and invariably won—a fact attributed to his ability to see all the cards in his opponents hands. One very extraordinary assertion in connection with this case, which seems to have been well authenticated, was to the effect that the somnambulist one day announced that three persons whom he named were coming to see him. In the natural course of things he could have had no knowledge of their approach, but persons whom he named are said to have arrived within an hour. "You see," says the doctor, watching the sleep-walking Lady Macbeth, "her eyes are open."

"Ay," replies the waiting gentleman, "but their sense is shut." How far this is in accordance with fact is a moot point, and so is the question as to the possibility of sight by the somnambulist whose eyes are closed. Gall affirms that all experience goes to show that somnambulists who have their eyes shut hit themselves when objects unknown to them are placed in their way. But, on the other hand, Dr. Wienholt, a German physician of eminence and ability, mentions some very striking cases proving the contrary. He speaks of a rope-maker who, in a deep sleep and with his eyes fast closed, traveled repeatedly from Naremburg to Weimar, avoiding horses and carriages that came in his way, and on one occasion picking his way carefully over some logs of timber which had fallen across the road. On another occasion he rode on horseback through a river, allowing his horse to drink, and drawing up his feet so as to avoid wetting them. A great many facts, or alleged facts, have been recorded tending to show the possession of some intuitive perception in a great many sleepwalkers apart from the sense of eyesight.

We have not space here to discuss any of the theories that have been set up to explain this mysterious faculty, if, indeed, it really is ever known to exist, and, moreover, the mere fact of bodily activity while the senses are locked in sleep is in itself sufficiently mysterious for full consideration. At first sight it would seem quite incredible that a person should rise and—as in the case we alluded to at the outset—while fast asleep should plunge into the sea and swim for a mile and a half. But it is not more incredible than certain other facts of a kindred nature which are altogether beyond dispute.

"I remember," said Dr. Richardson, when taking the chair at a lecture at South Kensington, London, "Dr. Snow administering this curious substance—a kind of poison which under certain circumstances, may be generated in the body from the starchy parts of it—to a boy who was being operated upon by Sir William Ferguson. While Sir William Ferguson was amputating the foot—that was the operation—the boy was playing unconcernedly with a ball which he was throwing up and catching with the utmost precision." Dr. Richardson was discussing the relations between certain poisons and certain diseases. "Take somnambulism as an instance," he observed. "I have not the slightest doubt that somnambulism is produced by the formation in the body of a peculiar substance which may be derived from the starchy parts of the body, and has the effect of the chemical substance known as amylene. I believe that because I can produce artificial somnambulism by the use of that substance. Under its influence persons can be made to walk about unconsciously in the same way the somnambulist does. Afterwards, when the effect has gone off, the person becomes all right again; that is to say, when the effect of the poison—for to that extent it is a poison—passes away."

Then he goes on to speak of the boy who played with a ball while his foot was being amputated. If it is possible that the administration of a drug shall exert so strange an influence as that a boy, while sufficiently in possession of his senses to play with a ball, is yet so fast asleep as to be unaware that his foot is being taken off, it clearly becomes quite credible that he may take a swim in the water while too fast asleep to be awakened by the shock of the first plunge; and if it be assumed, as Dr. Richardson asserts it may be, this peculiar substance may be naturally generated in the body, then many of the phenomena of somnambulism not only become in a certain sense intelligible, but the problem of remedy would seem to be very much simplified. If, instead of some peculiarity of brain or nervous system generally, the care of somnambulism is merely the discovery of some simple antidote to a poison, the task is one which we may any day expect to be most effectually accomplished.

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IN THE figure erected for the Lunation, or new moon, which occurs at about 12 minutes past 1 o'clock in the morning of April 10th, 1899, the great benefic Jupiter will be found almost exactly upon the South meridian. Capricorn will be rising and Saturn, the ruler of the Ascendant, will be just inside the 12th house in mundane sextile with his dispositor, and nearly in trine with the conjoined luminaries which are in the third house with Mercury. Mars is not favorably located, for he is in the 7th house receiving the square application of both the luminaries and Mercury. Venus is in the second house in benevolent aspect with Jupiter.

The figure promises well for the prosperity and general welfare of the country. The benevolent Jupiter, disposer of the ruler of the scheme, and of Venus, the lesser benefic, stands most elevated in the figure and will over-rule whatever opposing conditions threaten in the shape of disorder and enmities. Mars threatens dissensions and enmities if not actual bloodshed in the western and southwestern regions of our dominions, notably in connection with the government forces across the waters westward. It is apprehended some detriment may be suffered to the mail or telegraph service in the west. Cable cutting or seizure of mails or dispatches by disorderly elements is to be guarded against. Eruptive diseases and fevers in the western regions are likely to be particularly fatal, especially among children, and it is apprehended may prove disastrous to some one of our great men there, either in civil or military life. Some disaster upon our western waters, by which lives are lost, is probable during the last half of the month. Some unusual excitement in financial circles is indicated in the last days of April and persons much interested in speculative ventures, especially in the stock market of the country, should be watchfully alert or they will lose heavily by exciting fluctuations. Venus promises well for our National treasury from trade in agricultural products and indicates remunerative gains to the people from their crops as well as a good degree of fertility and bountiful yield from the soil.

The administration, despite political dissensions growing out of disputes over the policy of the Government, will have honor and support from our people as a whole and will be just and impartial for the Nation's welfare. Some one high in the postal service of the Government will be a serious sufferer under this lunation and probably in the early days thereof.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR APRIL, 1899.

APRIL 1—Saturday. A vein of evil is mixed with what would otherwise be very benevolent conditions on this day and somewhat embarrasses or frustrates the undertakings of the time; make no bargains for houses or lands; defer consultations with architects and builders and also all dealings of importance with persons in the dirty and laborious avocations, particularly during the latter half of the day.

2—Sunday. One of the best Sabbaths of the month; efforts of the clergy will be especially happy and effective, and minds dwell with earnestness and zeal on the contemplation of religious subjects: the day gives special enjoyment of the elegant in literature and art, and renders courtesies between the sexes particularly agreeable.

3—Monday. Choose not this day for beginning any important undertaking for no matter how favorable the promises they will prove delusive and result disastrously to them unless their nativity is remarkably good at this time; have no dealings in real estate, nor with landlords, contractors or farmers; the afternoon and evening are less evil than the morning hours. The day is unfortunate as a birthday anniversary and the time generally is decidedly adverse for persons born about the 13th of March, June, September, or December, of past years, as they are likely to be having very disappointing and baffling experiences in their affairs. Many of the male sex so born have business ruptures or serious disagreements, which threaten the success of their enterprises and render them despondent and quite unhappy. Ladies so born suffer more through the misfortunes of male relatives and friends and should be very discreet and careful in all their affairs; but especially so of their social engagements.

4—Tuesday. Avoid rashness of word and act and be not easily moved to wrath; the day is peculiarly dangerous for surgical operations especially if performed upon the head, stomach, or kidneys; the middle hours of the day are the best; more care than usual is urged in any of the speculative ventures, as they are likely to bring losses rather than gains, unless the nativity is remarkably good just at this time; don't sign any important agreement nor should travel be undertaken in the early hours of this day.

5—Wednesday. Begin the day early and urge all undertakings of a scientific, literary or artistic nature and press all general business to the utmost. Give preferences, if any, to the noon and afternoon hours for effecting major engagements with persons in the literary and intellectual callings when also urge all correspondence and literary matters; sign writings of all kinds except such as pertain to manufacturing interests, surgical or chemical work, or matters of construction; commercial transactions are well favored and dealings with banks and persons of wealth are assisted here. Attend also to writings affecting houses and lands and to printing and publishing.

6—Thursday. Begin this day with the sun and improve every moment; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books are particularly favored; authors will find the hours about noon of this day much more auspicious than usual for commencing any new and important work; make applications to officers of large corporations or government officials for favor or advancement.

7—Friday. The forenoon is the least favorable part of the day, and caution is suggested for avoidance of disputes through the morning hours; preference should be given to the noon and early afternoon hours for dealings with persons in the elegant avocations of life, musicians, artists, and dealers in fancy and artistic wares; the late hours of the day are depressing and more likely to give disappointments, either then or to the matters then begun.

8—Saturday. After the very early hours this day will be full of energy and enterprise and invites activity in all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travelers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

9—Sunday. This day is quite favorable for church matters and conduces in an unusual degree to religious fervor and moral advancement, and church contributions are likely to be very liberal.

10—Monday. Enter upon the active pursuit of business with the first moments of the day and waste no time in pleasure or folly; specially fortunate for the literary and scientific pursuits, the polite arts, important correspondence, employment of help, the execution of writings pertaining to houses and lands and concerning printing; unless care is had, the afternoon will bring annoyances through haste of judgment or disputes.

11—Tuesday. Hold on to the pennies; do not speculate, nor expect any favor from banks or other money institutions, especially in the forenoon; the afternoon favors the elegant and artistic pursuits and promises more than ordinary pleasure from the musical or dramatic entertainments.

12—Wednesday. Choose not the forenoon of this day for beginning any important undertaking; have no dealings in real estate, nor with landlords, contractors or farmers; the afternoon and evening invite activity in the mechanical callings and promote success from dealings in metals, machinery and cutlery, or with chemists, engineers, surveyors, tanners, bakers, carpenters and founders.

13—Thursday. Avoid this day for dealings with public officers or superintendents of great public works, also railway officials and large corporations; do not expect much pleasure from dramatic or musical entertainments in the evening.

14—Friday. Baffling circumstances attend the prosecution of business relating to fancy and ornamental goods, musical merchandise and also the pursuit of the fine arts; beware of making any matrimonial engagement in this forenoon; the forenoon hours are recommended for the literary pursuits and for dealings of minor character with persons engaged in clerical capacities, also teachers, students, surveyors, and civil engineers; when also mercantile business is to be urged to the utmost and the earlier in the afternoon the better for the success.

15—Saturday. The early and late hours are the best ones of the day; seek favor from thine employer and from persons in high stations in life; the latter half of the day is recommended for purchase of goods and for dealings with banks or persons of wealth and station.

16—Sunday. An unfavorable Sabbath day, in which it will be well to bridle the tongue and avoid contention; rest and quiet are best sought.

17—Monday. Seek no advantage from thine employer nor ask favors from public officials or persons in authority in great corporations; the evening is conducive to rashness, peevishness and excitability and a bridle should be placed upon the impulses; have care also in handling inflammables or explosives and see that no chances are taken of harm or loss from fire or violent accident.

18—Tuesday. Great circumspection is advised in thine undertakings of this day; look sharp if engaged in speculation, as some bad losses are threatened. In fact, the last half of April is likely to witness some unusual fluctuations in the money or stock market and some bad failures occur and fraud and defalcations of magnitude come to light. Don't purchase goods for trade on this day and hold on to the purse strings for avoidance of unnecessary or extravagant purchases.

19—Wednesday. Begin this day with the sun and urge all manner of business to the utmost. It is the merchant's own day and specially fortunate for all honorable pursuits; buy goods for trade, speculate in legitimate methods of business, travel, sign writings, urge literary and scientific pursuits and apply for favor or money accommodations during the forenoon; execute deeds, mortgages, leases, wills, and all species of contracts concerning building, particularly if thy nativity also favor such acts.

20—Thursday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with the utmost vigor, giving preference, if any, to such matters as depend upon mental labor; the time is particularly favorable for literary matters and for the prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies; the mind is unusually active; urge correspondence, make contracts, especially those effecting legal and educational matters; hire help and push all matters of trade and business; effect important deals with banks and the wealthy.

21—Friday. Give preference to the middle hours of the day for the pursuit of all general business; the morning encourages transactions of minor character pertaining to the elegant and artistic pursuits, though it is not wise to begin great things of this nature at this time; the evening hours promote combustibility and all are cautioned to be guarded as to fires.

22—Saturday. Dramatists, musicians, artists, jewelers, upholsterers, and furniture dealers are just at this time "under the ban," experience losses or embarrassments and will need to exercise unusual caution in all their acts; it will be well for theatrical managers and artists if they defer for a short time entering into important professional engagements; let the fair sex shun matrimony for a season, but particularly during these last two days of the week, if their desire be for domestic peace or harmony in the marriage relation.

23—Sunday. Specially conducive to mental eccentricities and indulgencies in the imaginative and marvellous in literature. The time is full of excitement and anxiety to persons born about 23rd of January, April, July or October, of past years, and many of such persons are having annoying physical experiences, feverish complaints, or are in the midst of strife or contention in their business affairs; and not a few of them have met unusual losses from speculative ventures; all such persons will be wise to be guarded against loss from fires, explosions and accidents.

24—Monday. The week begins with an excellent day for the vigorous prosecution of general business. It is particularly recommended for transactions pertaining to houses and lands, mines, building, and dealings in wood, coal, lumber, petroleum, lead and all kinds of plumbing materials; use the forenoon for engagements with banks and attention to pecuniary matters.

25—Tuesday. Look to thy purse on this day; loan no money and gauge thine expenditures by thine actual needs. REGULUS cannot advise the beginning of any new and important enterprise, no matter how flattering the promise, for conditions are very unfavorable, indicating embarrassment and poor success if not ultimate loss. Such conditions likewise advise extreme caution in finances, discourage large purchases of merchandise for trade and are bad for the giving of business credits or loans of money; bad failures and heavy commercial losses are induced under the prevailing influences; see that special precautions are observed against fire for we are in the midst of conditions which threaten peculiar fury of the fire element, causing excessive property losses and sacrifice of human life. These features of events are particularly noticeable in the lives of persons born about the last days in January, April, July and October, of past years, and such persons are cautioned that the passing time calls for unusual care in the respects indicated, for best avoidance of mischief to their nativities. They should likewise be cautious about exposing themselves to harm from bad eruptive and inflammatory diseases.

26—Wednesday. Keep thy tongue under restraint during the better part of this day, nor be rash in decision in business matters; quarrels and contentions are easy of birth and more violence abounds at this time; have no dealings with persons in business concerned with fancy or artistic goods or with chemical or electrical materials or machinery.

27—Thursday. An excellent day for transactions with persons in the artistic pursuits, dealers in wearing apparel, clothing manufacturers, weavers, musicians, dramatists, dressmakers, tailors, embroiderers and workers in wax and artistic materials; don't be too hasty in decisions in trade nor in speculative transactions.

28—Friday. Improve every minute of the first two-thirds of this day, pushing all commercial transactions, entering into contracts pertaining to books and literary matters and dealing with printers, publishers, lawyers, and all ingenious persons.

29—Saturday. The morning and evening hours are the least auspicious of the day; don't have dealings with real estate men, furniture dealers, jewelers, decorators nor persons in the artistic pursuits.

30—Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sabbath day, inviting rest and quiet rather than physical exertion or mental effort.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address

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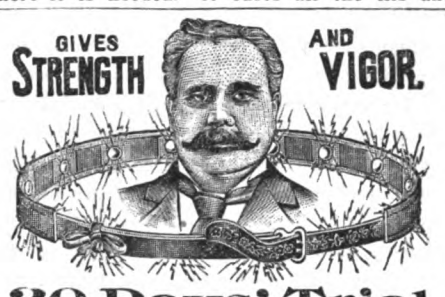
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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



No diplomatic position in the gift of our great Republic is more coveted than the post of Ambassador to England. There is a social as well as diplomatic distinction in being accredited to the Court of St. James. We require more than mere statesmanship, more than mere wealth, more than mere literary culture in the man who stands between the two great English speaking branches of the Anglo Saxon race. On January the twelfth this great honor was conferred for the second time in the administration of President McKinley. Joseph Hodges Choate of New York was named by the Senate to succeed Colonel Hay as Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Great Britain. Mr. Choate is one of the best known lawyers in the United States. He comes of staunch old Puritan stock, his ancestor John Choate having come to New England in 1640. Mr. Choate was born in the old witch-haunted town of Salem, Mass., in 1832. He was born on the twenty-fourth of January so this last great honor comes almost as a birthday gift. Joseph Choate is a son of Harvard, being graduated from that University at the age of twenty. Three years after his graduation he was admitted to the bar. In 1856 he located in New York, and three years later became a law partner in the well-known firm of Evarts, Choate and Beaman. As a lawyer he has become famous for the versatility of his knowledge. He has great ability as a public speaker and a national reputation as a wit. His kindly genial face is well known in the great metropolis. He has the qualities of good fellowship and of delicate tact required in an Ambassador to England. The American people feel no doubt that his popularity on the other side of the water will rank with that of his famous predecessors.



Mrs. Frances Hodgdon Burnett or Mrs. Hodgdon as she now has the legal right to call herself is undoubtedly the most successful woman writer of the day. Any one of the phenomenal successes she has won would place her in the first rank. To be the author of Little Lord Fauntleroy is fame enough for one person, but it is only one success among many won by this versatile and talented woman. Frances Hodgdon was born in the great manufacturing city of Manchester, England, and it was here that she became familiar with the odd Lancashire dialect that she used in some of her earlier tories, notably in That Lass O'Lowries. Her father died when she was about four years old but the family were in easy circumstances and until Frances Hodgdon was fourteen years of age she lived the average life of the average well-to-do English girl. Reverses, however, came; little by little the family fortune was reduced until finally no alternative was left except to seek a new home in America where Mrs. Hodgdon's brother believed an opening could be found for the boys. The family came to Newmarket, Tennessee, but the family fortune continued to ebb. At last it was not a question of giving up luxuries but a question of the actual lack of necessities. In this strait, Frances determined to aid the family finances and opened a private day school in one room of the log house that was "home" to the family. Money was scarce and the young schoolmistress was obliged to take her tuition fees in carrots, potatoes, etc. The next move was to Knoxville into a tiny house which the merry-hearted family dubbed "Noah's Ark." There were three girls and they faced the real privations of life with a light-hearted girlish glee that robbed poverty of half its sting. The three had each to contribute to the wardrobe of the fortunate one who had any merry-making on hand and the various articles were in this way common property. By no chance could two of the girls be in gala attire at the same time and the woman who to-day is remarked for her magnificent gowns had a one-third interest in the one presentable outfit of the girls from Noah's Ark. But the "little person" as she calls herself in her story of her life was not disheartened. She would write, and write she did after selling wild grapes to pay for postage and paper. The rest reads like a fairy tale, for the stories brought fame and wealth. Instead of Noah's Ark, Mrs. Hodgdon to-day has one home in London and another in Washington; both of them filled with rare furniture, objects of art, bric-a-brac and all the luxurious, artistic litter of modern taste. Peterson's Magazine published her first story. Her success was instantaneous and continued. She made a brief visit to England and upon her return married Dr. Burnett, an oculist of Washington, D. C. This relation has been recently severed by mutual agreement and Mrs. Burnett resumes her maiden name. Two sons were born, Lionel and Vivian. The deepest sorrow of Mrs. Hodgdon's life was the death of her eldest son in Paris in 1885. The cross that marks his grave bears the words, "Lionel, Whom the gods loved." Vivian graduated in June at Harvard, where he made a place for himself by his talent and genial ways. One of the events in the dramatic world was the great success of the play "A Lady of Quality" which was dramatized from Mrs. Hodgdon's novel. Her latest book "The Duke of Osmonde" gives the man's point of view of the same story. Mrs. Hodgdon's workshop at the top of her Washington home is the most interesting part of that beautiful house. It is thoroughly comfortable with its broad couches, pictures, photographs and books. The revolving bookcase that stands by her desk is filled at present with histories, and special books treating of the period in which the action of her last two novels occurs. Mrs. Hodgdon does not make hard work of her writing. She has the story all developed before she does any writing. Then her first copy is sent to the publishers. She is thoroughly progressive and seems to have the talent of discerning the public taste and of supplying its demands. No dialect story was more popular than That Lass O'Lowries, no child's story ever made a greater sensation than Little Lord Fauntleroy, and no daring advocate of the right of the "unquiet sex" ever created a more dashing figure than Clorinda in "A Lady of Quality."

One of the most picturesque features of Washington life is the presence on the streets of members of the foreign legations in the brilliant dress of their nation. Of course the Oriental nations add most color to the scene and chief among the observed is the new minister from Siam, Phya Visddha Suriyasakti. Phya means "baron," or a member of the lesser nobility of Siam. The new Siamese minister is finely educated, with a keenly inquiring turn of mind. He is much interested in schools and particularly in manual training. He has visited Hampton and the Indian school in Carlyle. The early part of the winter he spent in travel about this country, returning to Washington in time for the opening of Congress in December. After a brief taste of the social life of Washington he will pay a visit to London.



Richard Mansfield occupies a unique position on the American stage. His great genius is now universally acknowledged. He is an artist who is content with nothing less than the most finished interpretation of his art. He has long been noted for a savage indifference to the applause of the public or the decisions of dramatic critics. His speeches before the curtain are often devoted to scolding his audiences or criticising the press. Mansfield is English by birth but has become thoroughly identified with the American stage. He has the indifference to gain of the true artist. His great success, "Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde," would have filled the theater for an indefinite time but Mansfield utterly refuses to become identified with any one part. He is an actor of great versatility but of marked mannerisms. His Beau Brummel gave a picture of the most exquisite dandyism while his Baron Chevrial showed the wicked old roue. His latest success, Cyrano de Bergerac, has revolutionized opinion as to the manner and method of a successful play. That a romantic poem, a love story in blank verse could crowd the theaters from one end of the country to the other proved a surprise to many knowing ones. Mansfield took a play that most dramatic critics would declare entirely unsuited to the times, and made the greatest artistic and financial success of it. Richard Mansfield has been called the Irving of America, and his great effort to make the drama an elevating art certainly deserves that recognition.



Sven Hedin, the young Swedish explorer, is as well known in Europe as his countryman Dr. Nansen. America is just becoming interested in Hedin's valuable contributions to scientific and geographical knowledge. The young Swede is but thirty-three years of age, but he has made three long and eventful journeys through Central Asia and endured enough hardships to fill an ordinary lifetime. He proposed to be an Arctic explorer. Before he was seventeen, he had filled book after book with the most carefully drawn and beautifully executed maps. He left his studies at Upsala to tutor for a year. During this year he spent much time in studying the dialect of Turkey and the Persian language. He received $160 for his year's work and with this sum he made a journey through Persia. His observations were recorded in a book entitled, "Through Persia, Mesopotamia and the Caucasus." In 1892, he finished his studies at the University, taking the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The same year he was appointed as a member of an embassy sent from Sweden to the Shah of Persia. Dr. Hedin's knowledge of Persian made his services of especial value. On the conclusion of this duty, he prepared for his great expedition across Central Asia from west to east, to study the glaciers, to explore the Thibetan plateau and to settle a dispute concerning the location of a lake. The money for the expedition was subscribed by the King of Sweden, a Russian and many prominent Swedes. The expedition occupied three years and seven months. The time was filled with exciting adventures, almost super-human traits of endurance and frightful hardships. At one time the intrepid explorer staggered alone across a desert, scorching by day, freezing by night, ten days without food and nine days without water. A third expedition was undertaken with the object of searching for old buried towns in the desert. He found many relics of these lost villages and many old manuscripts that had been buried in the shifting desert sand for unknown years. He satisfied himself that those buried towns had once been inhabited by Buddhists, although that faith has long since died. At no distant date the world will hear more of the work of Dr. Sven Hedin in the cradle of the world's history.

Mrs. Zelia Nuttall is a recognized authority on the language, antiquities and picture writings of ancient Mexico. She is honorary special assistant in the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology. She was born in San Francisco and is of Irish-Spanish-American descent. She says her blood is half American but her heart is wholly so. She studied in Paris, Germany, London and Italy. She has traveled much and is an expert linguist. At the American Congress at Huelva, Spain, much attention was attracted by Mrs. Nuttall's tables with her reconstruction of the ancient calendar system of Mexico. These were afterwards shown at an historical exhibition at Madrid and at the World's Fair in Chicago. Here, Mrs. Nuttall by reason of her special and exhaustive knowledge of the subject was judge of the Mexican and Central American archæology in the department of anthropology. In 1896, the University of Pennsylvania sent Mrs. Nuttall to Russia to collect archæological and ethnological material for its museum. At the tenth International Congress of Americans held in Stockholm in 1894, Mrs. Nuttall read a paper before King Oscar II. on "A Preliminary Note on the Ancient Mexican Calendar System." Mrs. Nuttall illustrates her Mexican researches by drawings made from the original objects. She is an acknowledged authority on the ancient picture writings of Mexico. She has discovered a very valuable anonymous Hispano-Mexican document. The original is preserved in the Biblioteca Nazional Centrale at Florence, Italy. She has published it in fac-simile with a translation, notes and commentary under the title of "The Life of the Indians." It gives much information that is new and valuable. Mrs. Nuttall is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has been honored by membership in the leading scientific societies in the United States and Europe.

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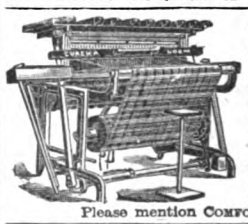
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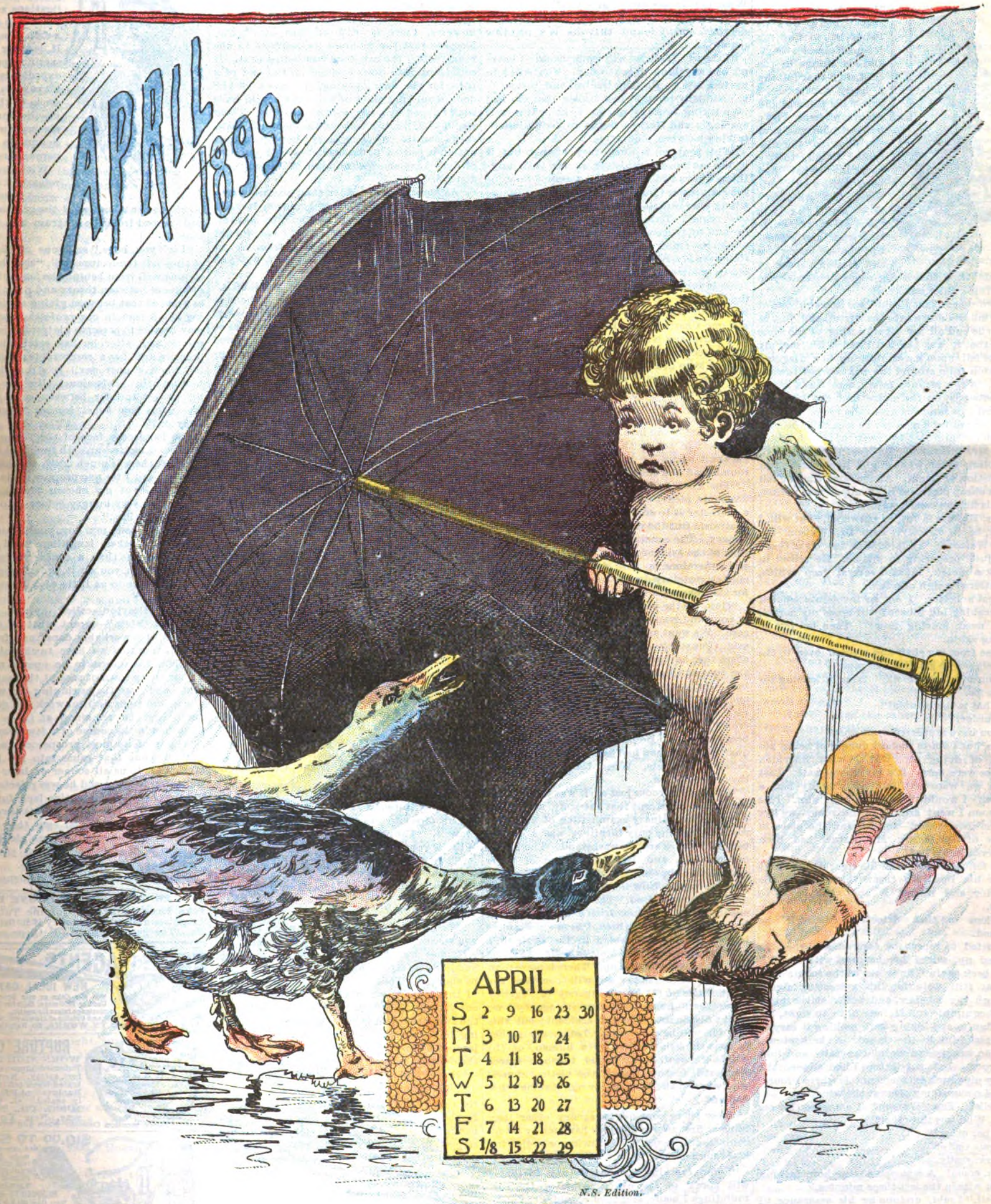
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COMFORT

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NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON.

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Edward Jouett Simpson, Fourth Prize.
Joseph S. Rogers, Fifth Prize.

THE MYSTERY OF THE CLOSED ROOM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARY ALLERSLEE DOYLE.

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I HAD dropped in at the rooms, 223 B Baker St., to find my friend Holmes absent, and his things in the confusion that follows a hasty departure. I threw his pajamas and nightcap back into his bedroom and shut the door on the disorder within, took a peep into what had been my own bedroom, but which he now used for his chemical experimentation, and then pushed the chairs into place and cleared a space in the middle of the sitting-room, preparatory to enjoying a quiet smoke.

From where I sat I could see through one of the windows down into the street, and just as I cut the end off my cigar, noting at the same time that it was the last I had with me, my glance fell upon a man running in a diagonal direction from around the next corner toward 223 B. A few seconds later there was a sound of footsteps on the stairs and the landlady ushered this same man into the room.

He paused for a moment to regain his breath. I motioned him into the chair opposite. "Are you—Mr.—Sheridan Holmes?" he gasped, trembling from what might have been utter exhaustion or fright. At the same time he felt into a cheap cigarcase in an upper vest pocket, but his fingers came away empty.

"Mr. Holmes is out," I answered, "but will, I think, be in directly. I am Dr. Watson—Dr. John Watson." I offered him the cigar that I was just preparing to smoke. He seized it, struck a match, inhaled several deep whiffs, and uttered a sigh of relief.

"That's better. I am an inveterate smoker and nothing but tobacco will brace my nerves. They need bracing now!" Then he fell to puffing again.

I rose from my chair and walked over to the mantelpiece to get Holmes' pipe.

"I am in a terrible fix," he said, leaning towards me.

"What is the trouble?"

"Murder!"

"You have murdered some one?"

"No, but I am in instant danger of being accused of doing so. Oh! I wish Sheridan Holmes were here. It's my room-mate. Last night we were out late and finally had a quarrel. I wouldn't go home with him. This afternoon I went around to the room—we live in Axminster Court—and I found the place in charge of the police. My partner had been murdered in his bed!"

The fellow had smoked his cigar down till it burnt his lips. He threw the stump at the cuspidor and missed it, and then began to fidget.

"When *is* that detective coming?" he groaned.

I started to repeat my assurances, when he jumped up, seized his hat, and with an "I'll come back again," flung out of the room.

I sat still watching his retreating figure through the window, and pulled at the pipe. Another minute and Holmes hove in sight, his tall figure and loping gait making it easy to recognize him in the crowd. A half minute later he was bounding up the stairs and into the room, but not before I had slipped the empty pipe back on the mantel where I found it, and resumed my place at the window.

"Hello! You, Watson? I *am* glad to see you. Who was the other?"

"What other?"

"Your visitor."

"Now, really——"

"Oh, come! A man was sitting here talking to you within the last three minutes."

"Well," I said, undone by his assurance, "I admit it. But first tell me how you know, and then I will tell you about him. It is important, too."

"Very simple, and quite plain. The room smells of tobacco."

"I was smoking your pipe."

"But my pipe tobacco makes a grey smoke. That blue cloud up there is from a cigar. The smell, however is of my tobacco, showing that both were smoking at once. There is the cigar, and the dash of ashes where it fell shows that it was not thrown from your chair but from the other. All the spit marks on the cuspidor come from your direction, showing that the man in this chair, who smoked the cigar, had a habit of swallowing his saliva. The evidence is complete. Now about the visitor. Is it a case?"

"Yes. You met him just at the corner. Tall, slightly crosseyed, a straw hat with a blue band."

"I noticed him. A collector, I should judge. By the way, I have a rather preplexing case on hand now. You will be interested. I slept late to-day and was aroused about noon by a summons from Gregson. There has been a murder or something over in Smithfield, in a place called Axminster Court."

"My visitor came to see you about that."

"Ah, he must be the room-mate of the—corpse. So he came to engage me, did he? What particulars did he give you?"

"Well, really none, I think. He was very nervous, and I found that he is a nicotine fiend."

"Pshaw! Well, he will come back. I haven't had anything to eat to-day. You will join me in a bite." He rang the bell and presently the landlady brought in a dinner that she had been trying to keep warm. I helped myself sparingly and Holmes began to feed himself, talking between mouthfuls.

"This problem is likely very simple, but it baffles me more completely so far than anything I have had of late. The second floor of the Axminster Court tenement house contains a long narrow hall which opens into the various rooms. This hall is reached from the ground by two stairways, one at the back and one at the front. At the head of one of these stairways is a room occupied by a cobbler, an old ex-soldier, with a wooden leg. Next to this room is another, which has been used as a lodging by a young man named Peter Nobb, a collector and solicitor for a laundering company, and one Charlemagne Beauregard, a man of fifty years, and whose principal occupation, at least since coming to that neighborhood, has been to keep drunk on a small income. This morning Beauregard was seen about the place in his usual unsteady condition until about ten o'clock, when he went into his room and bolted the door on the inside. An hour later, Constable Hace broke into the room and found the man dead in bed with a round depression in his skull where he had been struck by the round head of a shoemaker's hammer.

"The case, as I said, is very remarkable. There are plenty of data. These are of such a character as to admit of the most satisfactory analysis. But the result is anything but satisfactory. The conclusion I reach from a full review of the evidence is that the man cannot be, and, therefore, is not, dead. But this conclusion certainly does not agree with the facts, for they have the body at the morgue.

"Here are the details in brief. Gregson came at noon and wanted me to take a look into the case. We went and found the place as I have said. Constable Hace's evidence was to the effect that he had looked through a crack in the door and had seen the dead man on the bed. He had put his shoulder against the door and burst it open. Had made sure that the man was dead, and had hurried to keep out the crowd of tenants, who were attracted by the breaking door. He had then reported to headquarters. Gregson had been detailed, and had called in Lestrade. When they were baffled they came for me.

"I found the room just as it was when Hace first broke in, except that the body was gone. I made a preliminary examination of the surroundings. The only furniture was a double bed, two chairs and a washstand. There was one window, and two doors. One of these opened into the hall; the other, into the shoemaker's room. Now to try a little analysis.

"The man was dead. The cause of his death, apparently, was a blow from a hammer which lay on the floor, and which, I have since ascertained, fits the depression in the skull to a nicety. *How was this blow caused?* Analysis means to divide or split up. There is more than one basis of division; we will consider the possibilities of (1) human agency (2), agency other than human. If human agency, we might divide into intent or accident; but this division will help us none. Let us say rather (a) was the hammer *held* by a human, or (b) was it thrown or projected through space? Then, still further, was it the victim himself who wielded the hammer, or was it some other human?

"Now let us consider an agency other than human, first as wielding the hammer by actual contact, and second by throwing or projecting it through space.

"Before carrying the analysis any further I will speak of the examination of the surroundings I made, and then consider the questions this analysis brings out, in the light of that examination. The window was locked, and so covered by dust and spider webs as to show beyond a peradventure that nothing had passed through it in months. An examination of the hall door showed that as the constable had thought, the door was bolted on the inside, and his rush against it had torn the staple from the woodwork. The door leading into the shoemaker's room was not bolted on either side but was locked, and the key no one could place. Moreover, the shoemaker's bench was placed across this doorway and he had been sitting there all that morning. The crack in the hall door, mentioned by Constable Hace, was too narrow to admit the passage of the hammer. The ceiling, walls and floor of the room I inspected thoroughly, and am sure that there is not an opening of any kind bigger than a small rat hole.

"Now to review the questions. Was the blow struck by the victim himself, and if so, did he hold the hammer in his hand, or throw it? I am satisfied that the wound is in such a place and of such a character that this possibility may be dismissed. Next, was some other human the immediate cause of the blow from the hammer, and if so, was it held, or was it projected through space? Only by one route could the murderer have had ingress to the room to strike a direct blow or to throw the weapon; that is, by the door across which the shoemaker's bench stood. Under this head, however, there is still another possibility. Suppose that the hammer was already in the room, before the hall door was bolted shut. It could not have been wielded on the end of a pole, for the only opening, the crack in the door, would not allow of it. But it might have been tripped by a string from a height. There was a shelf high up above the bed and I was sure I had solved the mystery; but on examination it proved to becovered with a quantity of dust that showed no sign of having been disturbed.

"As for an agency other than human, which either held or projected the hammer: It could not have been shot into the room, we have already decided. An ape could not have brought it in any more readily than a man. A rat might have tipped it off the shelf, but you can't get around the dust.

"Now we have viewed all the possibilities, and the only explanation we have is the suspicion aroused against the old shoemaker. After we had talked it all over, Gregson was so convinced of my reasoning, that he arrested the cobbler at once. To make the case stronger, the hammer with which Beauregard was killed was found to be the mate of another in the shoemaker's kit, and he acknowledged that it was his.

"But now I have a host of little witnesses whose evidence proves the old man's innocence. It seems that he makes friends with all the children in the Court, and they play in his shop. Just after breakfast, they say, they slyly tied his wooden leg to his bench, and some of them hung around all the morning to enjoy the joke when he should try to get up. Gregson admits he found him thus tied when he arrested him.

"To corroborate *this* evidence, I have taken out the lock of that door and found that the dusty tumblers of the lock had not been thrown for weeks, at least. Thus you see, the conclusion drawn from the most rigid deductions is that the man could not be, and is not, killed. Is it any wonder I am puzzled?"

Just at this point the landlady ushered in my visitor, Peter Nobb, the room-mate of the murdered man. And almost before he had taken the proffered seat, puffing at one of a new supply of cheap cigars, the door burst open again and in pranced Lestrade. He shook a pair of handcuffs in Nobb's face and "hissed" in the most approved penny dreadful style:

"I arrest you in the Queen's name for the murder of your dearest friend, Charlemagne Beauregard!"

The poor fellow nearly fainted. Then he began to beg Holmes to save him. Sheridan had got his pipe and was preparing for a big smoke himself. "Caught the right man, Lestrade? What is your evidence?"

"They had a very violent quarrel last night."

"Pooh!"

"Well, that isn't evidence, but it's strong probability."

"Pish!"

"Well, if you know so much, name the man you suspect. Gregson says you're stumped."

Holmes was pulling furiously at his pipe. Suddenly he struck his forehead. "I have it!" he shouted. Then he looked oddly at Lestrade. "I think (puff) when the truth (puff) comes out you and Greg (puff) son will be (puff, puff) the two worst sold men in the service. I'm going to (puff) "make an arrest myself," and he jumped up and put on his hat. As he opened the door, in walked Gregson. He looked sick.

"Hello!" said Holmes. "How's your man?"

"I let him go," answered Gregson, shortly. He looked at Lestrade and the bracelets on Nobb's wrists. "Better let *him* go, too." He handed a sheet of paper to Holmes, who had stepped back into the room. It was a note addressed to the superintendent of division.

"Last winter," Holmes read, "a man who is now known to the public as Charlemagne Beauregard killed my brother. The circumstances were such as to make his conviction before a court impossible. I decided to take the law into my own hands. The murderer had taken a name then unknown to me and lost himself in the East Side. In order to facilitate my search, and to support myself while it lasted, as well as to ensure my escape from suspicion, I secured a position on the police force." Holmes stopped to chuckle. "This morning when I had located the murderer I boldly broke in his door, executed him with one blow of a hammer, and then reported the mysterious murder to headquarters, as you would have expected from your humble servant,

JOHN HACE, Constable."

"The analysis was all right," said Holmes, as he unlocked the handcuffs from Nobb's wrists, "but I didn't carry it back far enough at first. Didn't I say that you official detectives would be sold, when the truth came out?"

A RARE INSTANCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY R. B. HILL.

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"REMEMBER, young gentlemen, the instances in which you will really be called upon to disregard your professional obligations are so rare as to be scarcely worth mentioning. It is poor policy to sacrifice principle to expediency. It doesn't pay—in the truest sense of the words—in the long run. I sincerely wish you all honorable and prosperous careers."

With these closing remarks the Dean of —— Dental College bowed to the members of the graduating class, and stepped from the rostrum into the faculty room.

"I tell you, boys," said one of the students, as they left the lecture-hall, "that kind of talk sounds well from behind the footlights, but the difference between theory and practice is about as great as that between giving advice and taking it. A man in our profession or any other may be able to preserve his 'professional honor' pretty well after he has established a good practice and has a respectable bank account, but when a poor devil is struggling to get a foothold the professional slips he makes are not as few and far between as angels' visits. *Necessitas non habet legem.* What say you, Drayton?"

The handsome face of the young man thus addressed lighted up with resolve as he replied:

"I fear there is much truth in what you say, Ponder; but I for one propose not to lose sight of the ethics of my chosen profession. I will have to get very hungry before I stoop to non-ethical practices."

"Nevertheless, my boy, you'll 'stoop'," said the first speaker, laughing, "and you'll be something less than a century older than you are now when you do it, too; though I do believe you will do as little of it as any member of the class."

Calvin Drayton—called by his classmates "Earnest Calvin"—meant what he said, and it is his most remarkable departure from his determination that we have to chronicle. After receiving his sheepskin he opened an office in a flourishing town of several thousand inhabitants, and from the beginning did well, owing to conscientious, skillful work and genial manners. Had he remained at G—— he would doubtless in the course of a few years have become one of its most prosperous and honored citizens; but that came into his life which must come to us all sooner or later—he loved. But when he proposed he was rejected, and being sore hurt left his native land for a foreign country. The fair object of his love told him gently, with tears in her eyes, that she was so sorry but that already she was pledged to another, who himself had, several years before, gone far away to seek his fortune.

Sad and sick at heart Calvin turned his back

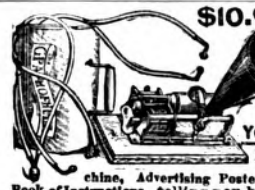
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on all he held dear and became a "stranger in a strange land among strange people." He opened his office in a rough but growing town in the diamond region of South Africa, and after the first week had more work than he could do, and at prices he never dreamed of receiving; but everything was proportionately high. He had been in Diamondton about two months when one day, while he was in the midst of an operation two men walked in; one, a white man, who introduced himself as Hogan, and the other, a gorgeously-bedizened African, whom Hogan introduced as "The great Chief Wombesa, a remarkable man and one of the richest natives in Africa. He has seen some of your work," continued the man, "and he wants you to put some gold fillings in his front teeth."

"I'm not in the habit of working for negroes at home," said Drayton, "but I suppose things are different here."

"Well, rather," Hogan answered. "In this instance the condescension is on his part and the privilege on yours. Besides, if the work pleases him, he will probably give you a diamond worth several hundred dollars in payment."

"If he needs the work I will do it for him, and will accept the diamond, too, if offered, partly as an evidence that I do not agree with you as to our relative positions," said Drayton. "But speaking of diamonds," he continued, "what has this heathen to do with diamonds?"

"Oh, nothing," the Irishman replied, "except that he owns a diamond field. See that necklace of rough stones he's wearing? He has been offered one hundred thousand dollars for that several times; and he'll be swindled if he ever takes three times that amount for it."

Having finished his operation Drayton examined the mouth of the African chief, and somewhat to his surprise found his teeth almost perfect from wisdom teeth to central incisors. Turning to Hogan he told him there was not a speck of decay to be seen.

"I know that," rejoined the individual addressed. "Just go ahead and bore three or four holes in his upper front teeth—the larger the better—and fill them with gold."

Thereupon Drayton informed Hogan that he would not bore into a sound tooth, even in the mouth of a savage, in order to insert a filling, not for the value of more than one diamond. Hogan protested earnestly against this decision, telling Drayton it was not only as much as his place—that of interpreter to the chief—was worth, but that his very life would be in danger, as Wombesa had set his heart on having the work done, and expected his persuasive powers to prevail under any circumstances. Finding the dentist inexorable, Hogan seemed in despair until an idea flashed into his mind.

"What were you doing in that man's mouth just now?" he asked. "You appeared to be sticking in a tooth somehow that had a filling in it already."

"So I was," Drayton answered. "The man had lost one of his teeth by a blow, and he came to me to see what I could do for him. As the root of the tooth was sound I removed the nerve, cleaned out the nerve-canal, and inserted what is commonly called a 'pivot tooth,' first, at the special request of the patient, placing gold filling in it."

"O, I see!" exclaimed Hogan; and turning to Wombesa he spoke to him in that worthy's jibberish. For a few moments the chief's eyes gleamed fiercely and he looked at Drayton like a tiger about to spring; but as the white man continued to talk the African's face relaxed, and uttering two or three gutteral grunts he pointed to his mouth, and then strode from the room.

"Be back in a few minutes," said Hogan to Drayton as he followed Wombesa. "Keep your chair vacant."

In less than fifteen minutes they returned, and as the chief entered the office he pointed again to his mouth, and his lips being drawn back from his white teeth in a broad grin, Drayton saw with amazement and disgust that his superior central incisors were gone.

"He made me knock 'em out, or rather in, with a hammer," said Hogan, in answer to a look of inquiry from Drayton. "Put two of those pivot-teeth in now, with big gold fillings in them, and if I'm not mistaken it will be the best day's work you have ever done in this business."

And so it proved, for when the work was complete and the savage beheld the shining gold fillings reflected in a mirror he seemed carried away with delight, pointing first at his teeth, a broad grin on his face the while, and then at the huge earrings and diamond necklace, with a deprecatory shake of his head, as much as to say, "I prefer this." Then he took from a dirty little leather wallet hung from his belt an uncut diamond and handed it to Drayton.

"Worth at least $300," Hogan said, as he glanced at it.

Suddenly Wombesa turned to Hogan and spoke rapidly. When he paused the Irishman said to Drayton:

"He says he wants you to go home with him and fill the teeth of his wives and children and some of his tribe with gold; that he has more diamonds waiting for you when you get through. It would be a diamond mine for you; and you would come back in a month or so—*if nothing happened to prevent*—a comparatively rich man."

"You wouldn't advise me to go then?"

"If I were in your place I would be sorely tempted to do so, in spite of the fact that more than one 'buckra' has gone into his section of the country and never been heard of since. However, if he continues pleased with your work, and did not give you so many diamonds in payment as to desire before you get away to re-possess himself of them, you might return in safety."

He went. And, as a week later, he stood face to face with Thompson Adler, who was Olive Wright's lover, he believed he knew what the impelling force had been. As this sun-tanned, hollow-eyed man told him of all he had endured for the last two years, since being made a prisoner in the African village, he felt that he was bound by the ties of common brotherhood to attempt his rescue, even if he had not promised the woman they both loved to try and find him and send him back to her. Alder told him of his adventures since arriving in Africa, which, in few words were as follows: He had landed at Diamondton about three years before with nothing. By hard work and close economy he had at the end of the first year laid aside some hundreds of dollars. These hard-earned dollars he had invested in those things dear to the African heart and started out on a trading expedition. Reaching Wombesa's village he bought some skins, and other things of the kind. Chancing one day to look at some colored pebbles with which a child was playing he noticed what looked like several rough diamonds among them. He was a jeweler by trade, and closer inspection convinced him that these were genuine stones.

"And right there my troubles began," said Adler bitterly. "Instead of pocketing the stones and saying nothing about it, I carried them to old Wombesa and offered to buy them. He went wild at once, took the stones from me, and said if I did not find others he would kill me. Neither he nor his people had dreamed that there were diamonds in their midst, and although they had no idea of their real value they knew they were precious. I was carried to the place where the said stones had been picked up, and with threats of death compelled to find others. Once I tried to escape, taking with me a few fine stones, which I had managed to conceal in spite of all their watching. I was caught, the diamonds recovered, and I was beaten into insensibility. When I recovered they put me to hunting diamonds again, and gave me to understand that the next time I would suffer death. That was long ago. More than once of late, after having been thoroughly searched, they have hinted that I might go if I wished, as several of the tribe now know a diamond when they see it pretty nearly as well as I do. But I have succeeded, at very great risk, in concealing eight fine stones, and I cannot leave without them. Help me—think of some way," he said, appealing to Drayton, "and you may select any two of the eight you wish."

Drayton racked his brain for a few minutes, and then said, half jestingly, "I will tell you how you can conceal four of them if they are small enough."

"How?" asked the other, almost springing from the operating chair where he had been since Drayton had completed the last filling in his mouth. "Quick, man!" he exclaimed excitedly.

"Suppose I remove the four fillings I have placed in your molar teeth; could you get the diamonds into the empty cavities?"

"Take out one of them—the largest—and let me see. Hurry, for the love of Heaven!"

"Not large enough by nearly half!" he groaned, as he saw the reflection of the cavity in a mirror; "but can't you make that fully twice as large by removing the interior of the tooth, and so with others?"

"Of course I could, but only by sacrificing sound tooth structure, and that would not be legitimate dentistry."

"Not 'legitimate dentistry'! Fellow are you crazy, or would you make me so?" and he glared at Drayton like a wild beast. For a moment he stood thus, and then sinking back into the chair said, in a voice painful in its forced calmness, "Now you can either prove the sincerity of your love by making the largest possible space in eight of my back teeth, or else you can prove yourself a sham and a fraud by not doing it; for I solemnly swear that I will not leave here without those diamonds, and I feel that this is my only chance!"

It was asking much of Drayton, the loss of his sweetheart, for he found that hope still lived, and an infraction of the code of ethics; but he rose to the occasion, solacing himself somewhat with the thought that it was one of those "rare instances" of which old Dean Bateman spoke.

The natives did not think to look beneath the thin cap of gold which Drayton fitted into each cavity where the diamonds were secreted, and in due time the white men were allowed to depart in peace.

THE PARTING OF JOSEPHINE AND NAPOLEON.

Love Strove with Ambition, But in Vain.

The tragedies of life are played for the most part in private. The closet which holds the private skeleton is always locked. Men and women smile on friends and guests and so hide the heartache and bitterness, which they would not have the world know of. But once in a while some typical tragedy is enacted on a high platform for all the world to gaze at. For the actors there is no privacy, no secrecy. They live in the glare of "that white light which beats upon the throne," and all their actions must be "naked and open" to the public eye.

It was so in the case of Josephine and Napoleon Bonaparte.

They were childless. The Emperor desired to found a dynasty. He wished to perpetuate a race of Emperors. The future of the Empire, his boundless ambition, the advice of counselors, all pushed him on to that final step,—divorce.



Love protested, but in vain.

That parting scene between the woman Josephine and the man Napoleon is historic.

"Low on the border of her couch they sat,
Stammering and staring. It was their last hour.
A madness of farewells."

For all time these two may stand as types of the unhappiness of the married who are childless.

"THE HEART KNOWETH ITS OWN BITTERNESS."

Behind closed doors in a hundred homes, the tragedy of childless marriage is being enacted. In most cases love forbids the breaking of the marriage bond. But the wife gazes hungry-eyed from her window, on the children romping in the street. And the husband coming from his office, pats some curly headed newsboy on the head, while the boy wonders why he got a dime instead of a penny for his paper. But each buries the secret longing in the heart. Each locks the skeleton away in the closet, where no prying eye may intrude upon it.

"God pity them both
And pity us all
Who vainly the dreams of youth recall."

Was the dream of youth vain?

Must the intense mother-longing of woman go unsatisfied?

Is there no word of hope or help for childless womanhood in this age of scientific miracles?

We can only reason from what we know. We know that women craving children have tasted the joy of motherhood, when they had given up all hope of this happiness.

"I had been a sufferer from uterine trouble for about three years, having two miscarriages in that time and the doctors that I consulted said I would have to go through an operation before I could give birth to children," writes Mrs. Blanche E. Evans, of Parsons, Luzerne Co., Pa., Box 41. "When about to give up in despair I saw the advertisement of Dr. Pierce's medicine and thought I would give it a trial as a last resort. I bought a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and after taking it felt better than I had for years. Felt improved before I had taken one-half of the bottle. After taking four and a half bottles I gave birth to a bright baby girl who is now four months old and has not had a day of sickness. She is as bright as can be. I cannot say too much in praise of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription."

SINGULAR BUT NOT SOLITARY.

The case of Mrs. Evans may be singular but it is not solitary. This is only one case out of many in which Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has proved the "one thing needful."

"For five years my wife was in an almost helpless condition, suffering from female weakness," writes J. S. Everitt, Esq., of Hagerman, Washington Co., Fla. "Last September I decided to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. She took several bottles of the medicine and gave birth to a ten pound son on January 31st, 1898. She is now sound and well and doing housework."

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Any sick or ailing woman may consult Dr. Pierce by letter without fee or charge, thus avoiding the unpleasant questions, the offensive examinations and repulsive local treatment considered necessary by many local physicians. Consultation by correspondence with Doctor Pierce is under the seal of the strictest privacy. All statesments are held as sacred confidence and a prompt answer is mailed in a plain envelope, bearing upon it no printing whatever. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

It is well to remember that the offer of free medical advice made by Doctor Pierce, is almost without precedent:

First—Because Dr. Pierce is qualified legally and by a physician's training and experience to give the medical advice he offers.

Second—Because in more than thirty years of practice, in which the treatment and cure of diseases of women have been made a specialty, Dr. Pierce has gained an experience which puts him in the front of all specialists in the treatment of female disorders and diseases.

Third—Because as chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y., Dr. Pierce has surrounded himself with nearly a score of assistant physicians, each man a graduated and legally qualified physician; each man a specialist in the treatment of some form of disease.

Fourth—Because the record of cures by Dr. Pierce's treatment is phenomenal. In more than thirty years of practice half a million women have been treated and ninety-eight per cent. of all these have been absolutely and altogether cured.

There are others who make offers of medical advice similar to that of Doctor Pierce. But no such offer has behind it a medical institution like the Invalids' Hotel and a staff of qualified physicians, or such a genuine record of cures.

Women for their own sakes should investigate offers of *medical* advice—otherwise they may be led to "write to a woman," supposing they are writing to a qualified physician and getting genuine medical advice. Investigation would show that behind such an offer there was no qualified medical knowledge, but probably some man, who unable to write M. D. after his name, was using a woman as a bait, to attract women into a correspondence. In any case *the medical advice of an unqualified woman is just as dangerous as the medical advice of an unqualified man.*

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription contains neither cocaine, opium nor any other narcotic, and is also entirely free from alcohol, whisky and every other stimulant or intoxicant.

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THE HARLEY CASE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY RAYMOND SARGENT.

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ONE of the saddest stories that I remember during my thirty years of newspaper life was that of young Harley. His case was the biggest sensation that Chicago had had for years. Harley was the cashier of the Broad Street Bank, and was arrested for embezzlement, tried and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. Two days later he was found dead in his cell. I remember the facts perfectly.

Harley had for years been the trusted servant of the bank. He moved in the best society, apparently had no bad habits, was a sociable, whole-souled, hearty young fellow, with a good, honest face and the frankest and clearest of blue eyes. At the bank he had worked up to the position of cashier, and though one of the youngest in the country, showed exceptional ability and enjoyed the highest confidence of all. One Monday morning he failed to appear. Nothing was suspected from this; Harley had been intending to go on a vacation, having been much overworked, and had given the combination of the vault to the assistant cashier. When this assistant, however, had opened the vault, it was found that it had been robbed—not a cent in cash, nor a paper of any value remained.

The police were at once notified and then for the first time suspicion fell upon Harley, for the police stated that on Sunday afternoon he had telephoned headquarters and notified them that he intended to open the bank vault in order to get out his books. When the automatic burglar alarm on the Broad Street Bank vault rang half an hour later, it was unheeded.

At once the police in all parts of the country were notified of Harley's disappearance. On the afternoon of the same day word was received that he had been captured, and was being brought back for trial.

I was assigned to report that trial. The evidence against Harley was overwhelming, yet somehow, I never felt that the boy was guilty. He told a straight story. He had been promised a vacation, he said. He was told he could take it at any time and feeling tired and nervous on Sunday morning, had decided suddenly to go for a week. His assistant had been given all necessary instructions and he could wire the directors on Monday morning as to his whereabouts. Then it occurred to him that the money he had saved for his vacation was in the bank vault for safe keeping. Accordingly, he had gone to the bank, where he telephoned police headquarters and told them about the burglar alarm, and said that he was going to open the vault himself to get out his books. He said this, he explained, because he was in a hurry and wished to avoid unnecessary explanations. He had then taken his money and gone away, leaving everything as he had found it. He had taken an afternoon train for Woodley. Arriving, he had gone at once to bed and slept late into the morning. When he finally arose he started for the telegraph office, but on the way met a young lady, an old acquaintance, and for the time forgot his errand.

This was all of Harley's story. He was found at the Woodley House by the local police. His explanation sounded plausible and no cross-examination could shake him. The bank officials admitted that they had promised him a vacation. Harley's friend at the Woodley House testified to the truth of his story as far as she was concerned. The proprietor of the hotel stated that Harley had taken a room for a week. The fact that he had remained so near the city was emphasized by his lawyer. No guilty man would have done such a foolish thing.

On the other hand the fact remained that the bank had been robbed. The prisoner admitted that he had opened the vault. Nobody else but his assistant knew the combination and he accounted for every minute of his time from leaving the bank Saturday until the discovery of the robbery on Monday. Harley's departure, his failure to notify the bank officials of his whereabouts, and his falsehood to the police, all acted against him. The case was a clear one and I noticed that Harley's lawyer seemed to have little faith in his client, but went through his part mechanically, as if expecting defeat. The verdict of guilty was no surprise.

Two days later the papers were full of another sensation, Harley's suicide. With everybody against him, a nervous wreck from over-work and worry, the dishonor of a long term in prison staring him in the face, he had broken down completely and hanged himself in his cell, using his bed clothes for that purpose.

This closed the affair and people in a great city forget such things very soon. As I have said, I always had a belief in the innocence of the boy, and did not forget the case easily.

Consequently when, a few years ago, and fully ten years after the Harley case had passed from the public mind, I picked up the latest number of a magazine of short stories, and glanced at the contents, my eyes were at once caught by the title, "The Bank Mystery, by Edward Olney." Lazily I began to read, but with increasing interest, and at its end I was most forcibly impressed by its similarity to the Harley case. The story even offered a solution to the mystery.

Either the writer remembered the case, and had imagined the sequel, or somebody had told it to him. The idea struck me that the author of that story could tell me something interesting about the Harley case. Finally I decided to look him up, and have a talk with him. This was an easy matter. Mr. Olney received me pleasantly.

"Where did I get the plot of that story?" he said. "Why, that's quite a story in itself. Last year our summer home was broken into, and I succeeded in capturing one of the burglars, and tied him into a chair. I sent my son for the village police, and as the village was some distance away, I was left for an hour watching my prisoner. I had long wished to talk with a genuine burglar, and under the influence of some strong wine, this one, surly at first, became very talkative, and told a most picturesque story of his life. Among other incidents he told the story you are asking about. He was such an interesting chap that I confess I didn't feel particularly sorry later when I heard he had escaped from the police on his way to the jail. I should know the man anywhere. He seemed to have a nervous affection, for his face and hands twitched incessantly. Besides, he was very tall, and had a head of very bushy red hair."

I was convinced that if I could find Mr. Olney's burglar, I could solve the Harley case. Fortune favored me soon after, for on visiting police headquarters, I was told of the capture of a daring burglar, and was allowed to see him. Imagine my satisfaction when I discovered that he was the same man described by Mr. Olney. He refused to talk at all.

On my way home I laid out a plan of action. I called that night on a friend of mine, Professor Le Bon, who was quite an expert in the art of hypnotism. To him I explained my plan, and he gladly agreed to assist.

Next day we called at the police station and were shown to the cell of the burglar. While I talked with him, or rather at him, for he said nothing, the professor exerted all his power to bring the man under his influence. For a time he seemed doomed to disappointment, but at length the burglar turned and faced the professor, his gaze having a fixed stare.

"Now," said my friend, "call the officers, and we'll have his story in no time."

The experiment worked like a charm. Before the inspector and three officers the burglar did whatever the professor commanded.

"Can't you tell us about the Broad Street Bank robbery?" suggested my friend.

The burglar smiled. "Why of course," he said. "I did that job. I'd been watching that bank for weeks, and was across the street when Harley went in. I slipped in after him; he was at the telephone and I heard what he said about the burglar alarm. Then he started to open the vault. 'A knock on the head, my boy, when you get her open, and I won't need to blow it,' I thought. Then I decided on a safer plan. I had a stout piece of wire in my pocket that I used in my business. As the vault door swung open Harley stepped inside. I sprang behind the door, and slipped the wire into the lock in such a way that the bolts wouldn't fall into place when the door was shut. I got into the directors' room just as Harley came out of the vault. It was risky, but I had two chances. If he had seen me, I would have shot him, and got what I could. But he didn't see me. He came out, swung the great door to, turned the tumbler to throw the bolts, and went out. After he had gone, I had no trouble in opening the vault again. The wire had kept the lock from working, and Harley in his hurry had not noticed it. I cleaned the place out at my leisure, for I knew the burglar alarm wouldn't work, fixed the vault all right and went out the front door, which fastened with a spring lock. Next day I read in the paper that Harley was arrested, but as I was leaving for Australia I couldn't go to the trial. I just got back last week."

The professor snapped his fingers and the burglar came to his senses, as surly and quiet as ever.

"My friend," smiled the inspector, "we'll see if we can't make matters interesting for the Broad Street Bank burglar."

A STUDENT'S STORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY EDWARD JOUETT SIMPSON.

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WHEN I was at the Law-school it was my fortune to have as my most intimate friends the two "biggest" men in the University; Harris, the curly-headed giant of the foot-ball eleven, and John Holcomb, a shining star in the lecture rooms. Holcomb was also a perfectly "set up" man and so was, of course, urged to don the canvass jacket, when, it was freely predicted, he would run Harris a sharp race for the honors of the the gridiron.

To these pleadings Holcomb persistently turned a deaf ear—why, was known, or rather surmised, by only a few of his intimates. Sad to relate, this young fellow—brilliant, handsome, accomplished in all that we are wont to consider the graces of culture and refinement—had yet one vice, or habit, which threatened to involve in ruin any career which the world might have in store for him. Whiskey, love of strong drink, held him with a chain, a passion which I have seldom seen equaled in men many years his senior.

How he so easily maintained his lead at the head of his classes was a mystery to the few who knew his habits; but we believed that even *he* feared to dare the tempter to the long struggle, the self-restraint, which the foot-ball training season would necessitate—"breaking training" being the unpardonable sin in the University foot-ball world.

Harris and I loved this brilliant fellow and tried our best to protect him from his one weakness. I had heard of such a craving handed down from father to son, an incurable disease, but his father was a distinguished Judge of his State's highest Court, sobriety itself, so such an hypothesis in this case went for nothing.

One boisterous winter night Harris and I were seated before the fire in my room, enjoying a quiet smoke, when Holcomb joined us. I saw at a glance that he had been drinking. He was in one of his brilliant humors, however, and speedily took all the talking on himself; for an hour he held us spellbound. Finally—just as he had finished one of his favorite legends of the Rhine, I remember—he took a silver flask from his pocket and raised it to his lips. Almost involuntarily Harris and I leaned toward him, as though to catch his hand; but with a laugh he pushed his chair beyond our reach.

"Just one, boys, and then Bob can throw it away," he said, and we were necessarily content.

His drink was a small one, for his shame of his passion was almost as great as the passion itself, and then he tossed the flask over to me. Stepping into my bedroom, I locked it in a drawer, and when I came back I found the poor fellow pacing back and forth across the floor liked a caged tiger. This was his habit when one of his fits of remorse was on him—I had seen him when he was so weak that his limbs would barely support him, totter up and down, up and down the room—so I took my seat and said nothing.

Harris was busy pouring a double-handful of tobacco into the bowl of his pipe—it held a pound, more or less; he called it Vesuvius—but he looked across at me and shook his head, and I saw tears standing in the big-hearted fellow's eyes.

Presently Jack spoke, and his voice was husky:

"I have a story I want to tell you fellows. I don't know why I never told you before; and I don't know why I am going to tell you now. Maybe it will make you understand more clearly how this cursed drink has gotten such a hold on me." He paused a moment and then went on: "God knows I don't offer it as an excuse—but it is my only excuse, for I wasn't always such a weak fool as you see me now."

He came back to his chair in front of the fire and sat down wearily. We were quiet enough in the room, but outside the storm was still raging. The wind roared and whistled through the pines and around the sharp corners, and gusts of hail and sleet at intervals beat heavily against the windows; the limbs of the "Old Patriarch" at the corner scraped mournfully against the roof above us as if begging shelter for its time-worn life.

"First of all," Jack began at last, "Judge Holcomb is not my father. Twenty-five years ago to-night—and they say that it was just such a wild, stormy night as this—I was found snugly tucked away in a basket inside his door. No one about the house knew who left me, or how long I had been there. There was no sign whatever on my clothing or in the basket as to my parentage; not even an initial from which they might guess by what name I was to be called. Of course the Judge made inquiries—he even had detectives work on the case—but there was never a trace of my parents found. Finally it was given up, and the Judge adopted me, gave me his own name, and I was taken to his heart and his wife's as if I had been of their own flesh and blood. They had no children of their own, and I received all the love and tenderness of an only child. To make a long story short, I grew up much as other boys around me, going to school and to college, the Judge sparing no money or pains to give me the best of educations.

"Our nearest neighbor was a Mr. Ransome. He and the Judge had been close friends ever since they were boys at school, had married sisters, and had lived here side by side for years. I was almost as devoted to 'Aunt Mary's, as I was to my own home.

"About three years after I had been left at Judge's, Mr. and Mrs. Ransome likewise adopted a child. They were visiting Mr. Ransome's brother in another state, and this little girl had been found at the house one night much in the same way as myself; at her little neck was pinned a slip of paper with 'Ethel' written on it. Mr. Ransome brought her home with him, and crowed mightily over the Judge at having a nice little lady rather than a good-for-nothing clumsy boy. As we grew up we were naturally thrown together a great deal, and—but I suppose you have guessed that part of my story already; we became sweethearts, and built our fairy-castles as all children do.

"When I was seventeen years old I went off to college, and Ethel cried as though her little

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heart would break; and it took all of my pluck to keep my tears back. Three years passed before we saw each other again; she also went away to school and it so happened that we had our vacations at different times. College life affected me as it does all boys, and I gradually forgot my girl-sweetheart. The third summer, however, we were at home together. I expected, as a pompous Senior, to give my little cousin an affectionate kiss and pat her condescendingly on the head; but I didn't. It was the old story; I had left a jolly, impetuous girl and came back to find a woman. I did not kiss her; but when she came into the room the stately personage who had asked so grandly about 'the little girl' could only take her hand in the greatest embarrassment and murmur some unintelligible words, supposed to be of greeting. Even in my confusion I noticed how the old gentlemen smiled at each other.

"Our mutual shyness soon wore off and gradually we took up the old life again, though it could nevermore be the same. But though all of that boy-and-girl life and boy-and-girl love was a thing of the past never to come again, I found that my old affection still existed as did hers; in a different way we felt it, but the old love was still there. Although I had left the girl and found the woman, I had found the same nature. The happy disposition, the bright laugh and humor were still there as of old; the love of fun and teasing was only a little more gentle, and all the more winning. And behind and through it all shone that worship of truth that had so often brought swift punishment to our childish pranks.

"At the end of that short summer I was wildly, passionately in love. I went back to college and got my degree with the first honor—for a fellow works hard, you know, when there is a woman at home expecting great things of him.

"Our engagement was announced to our nearest friends. Both the Judge and Mr. Ransome opposed a marriage while we were so young, but finally it was arranged that I should take a post-graduate course for one year, and the wedding should follow in the summer. So I departed for my last term at college.

"There was in town a young fellow named McRea, the only son of a rich banker. Although older than I, years before we had been rivals in our sports at school. He was not of much natural ability as an athlete, but he had ambition, backed by pluck and perseverance. Two consecutive years he and I had been the final contestants for the all-round championship at the field-day games, and I had beaten him both times; the last time so decisively as to cause a good deal of laughter at his expense. He was one of those vain fellows who cannot stand defeat, and he vowed bitterly that one day he would get even with me. He developed into a brilliant, polished man, with an easy, frank manner that was very fascinating. Though his bad habits were not generally known, he was a gambler and a rake, at heart utterly unprincipled.

"When Ethel returned from school he was among the first to pay her attention, and speedily fell deeply in love. At first, I believe, she liked him, but as she got a further insight to his real nature, and at the same time saw how serious his intentions toward herself were becoming, she discouraged him all she could. At last, after a somewhat painful scene, he was brought to realize that his suit was in vain. Then, man of the world though he was, he lost complete control of himself and went away swearing deadly vengeance against me—that if he could not have her, I never should—for he judged that I was the cause of his new *humiliation*.

"I knew none of these details until long afterwards. He went to gambling more recklessly than ever, and it was only through his father's influence that he was enabled to hold his responsible position at the bank.

"Well, another year at college, and I came home for good. The wedding was to take place the 15th of July—Wednesday. Ah! fellows, it is when I think of those weeks of happiness that I *must* have whiskey to *keep from* thinking."

Jack paused and stared straight before him into the fire, struggling to conceal his strong emotion. I glanced across at Harris, but Vesuvius was going at full blast now, and the clouds of smoke he was incessantly blowing forth almost hid him from view. It was a sure sign that he was deeply interested.

"Well," came his voice out of the smoke, rather nervously, "go on."

"Wednesday night, just one week before the day set for the wedding," Jack continued, "I left Mr. Ransome's house about ten o'clock. Usually I went home through the yards, the houses being only a short distance apart, but as it was raining, and the ground was soft and wet, I went down the walk to the street. Just as I passed out of the gate, a tall slender man passed me, walking hurriedly. He had on a long rubber coat, with the collar turned up, but there was a street-light near, and I thought I recognized McRea. I remembered that this was his way home from the bank, and supposing that he had been detained by business, I went on without giving him another thought. A few yards further on I met another pedestrian. This was a large, heavy man, rather poorly dressed, and he was also walking very rapidly.

"When I got home I found the Judge down in the front hall. He had just come down in answer to a ring at the bell, but had found no one, and after looking around a little, had decided that it was merely some boyish trick, and started to go back. Then he noticed a note pushed under the door, and was reading it as I came in. Here it is."

Jack took a paper from his pocket-book, and handed it to me. It was a sheet of plain note-paper, folded twice, a little soiled, and addressed to Judge Holcomb. The writing was uneven and sprawling, probably disguised. At Jack's request I opened it and read:

"JUDGE AND MRS. HOLCOMB:—You are about to commit a great and terrible wrong—a crime. John Holcomb and Ethel Ransome (as they are known to you) must not marry; they are brother and sister. When the boy was left with you and the girl in another state, it was never dreamed that such a state of affairs could come to pass. You and Mr. Ransome (the brother of the one who actually adopted the girl) were chosen because you were known to be kind-hearted, Christian people, who would treat in the kindest manner two little unfortunates whose parents found it impossible to raise under their care. It is equally impossible for me to let my identity be known now; whiskey is the cause of it all. In the name of God, of morality, and of nature, I implore you to prevent this marriage, which could only end in suffering and degradation. I have tried to warn you sooner, but my efforts failed. Do not disregard this, or your future life can only be one of repentance and sorrow.

THEIR FATHER."

"The devil!" ejaculated Harris, and then we sat silent.

Jack continued: "We immediately hurried out and made search for the stranger I had met, and young McRea, but could find neither. The next morning it was discovered that McRea had run away with thirty thousand dollars belonging to the bank, and neither he nor the stranger has ever been heard of since. And that is all."

* * * * * *

When I was awakened the next morning by my "sweep," he gave me a note which explains itself:

"DEAR BOB:—Have just been called home by telegraph. It seems that McRea returned home and the police captured him. There was a fight and McRea is dying and wants to see me.

Yours hastily,

J. HOLCOMB."

* * * * * *

One week later, Christmas morning, coming down to breakfast at home, I found a fat envelope on my plate, addressed in a hand I knew well. As I opened it a newspaper clipping fluttered on to the table. I picked it up and read:

TO BE MARRIED.

HOLCOMB-RANSOME. On Wednesday evening, December 31st. at eight o'clock, at the residence of the bride's adopted parents, Ethel Ransome to John Holcomb.

AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JOSEPH S. ROGERS.

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TOM Slocum had been drinking heavily of late. As he came down the steps of his boarding house his hands shook nervously and there was a certain stooping forward of his broad shoulders not in keeping with his sturdy physique.

The evening before he had caroused at "The Fisherman's Rest" until midnight and now the terrible after-thirst was upon him; but he resolutely turned his back upon the town and walked slowly along the beach.

It was a lovely summer morning, cloudless and balmy. A strong breeze came from the south, fanning the surface of the water into long, leaping ridges of white, coral-like spray. Far out over the sun-lit sea a score of dazzling sails were scattered, while here and there the huge form of an ocean voyager stood out distinct and clear against the pale, blue horizon.

On the beach a pretty little girl of two summers was at play in the sand and near by stood her nurse, watching.

Tom Slocum passed on until he came to a ridge of rugged bowlders, jutting into the water. Here he sat down and looked back listlessly at the child. The nurse was going towards one of the cottages some distance ashore, but the little girl sat there content in the occupation of scooping up handful after handful of the sand and letting the minute grains run slowly through her tiny fingers.

Tom Slocum looked out over the ocean. There was a moisture in his eyes for the sight of the child affected him strangely. He had been letting those selfsame golden sands slip unheeded through his fingers ever since he had become a man. What a life he had led! Drink, drink, drink! Every dollar he had made by renting his fishing sloop—for he had never done a day's work—had gone the same way, every good impulse he had put aside. And now no one cared for him—not even she who had once been his sweetheart. Ah well, she was right—they were all right—he deserved his fate. He had smothered remorse in his heart, never done better, never even tried. He might try now but—— Then a dull apathy came upon him and he brooded over his mind. He bowed his head and strove not to think. He heard the voice of the child down on the sand and the monotonous lap of the waves against the rocks and—the beating of his own heart. He raised his aching eyes until they rested upon the radiant sails of the fishing vessels. The men on them, he knew, were toiling for their wives and children and an honest livelihood. They had a purpose in life—why not he? Was it too late, even now? A light of mingled hope and resolve came upon his face and his eyes grew lustrous.

Aye, the people would laugh at him, but what of that—he would, yes, with God's help, for once he would turn over a new leaf!

He arose and straightened himself. Then, with a certain gratefulness in his heart, he thought of the child.

Ah, she was gone. How quickly she must have scampered ashore.

He was scrambling down the rocks to go back to the village to a new life of honest endeavor and filled with hope and—love, perhaps, when something white just out from the place on the shore where the child had been, attracted his attention. He sprang from the bowlder and ran panting to the spot. Without a moment's hesitation, he threw off his coat and plunged boldly into the water. A dozen strokes and he had gained the child and grasped her clothing. Then, for the first time he found himself getting weak. It was far more difficult coming in than going out. He had been a strong man, but dissipation had softened the muscles that were once like iron. He strove bravely against the force that threatened to carry him and the child out into the deep. As yet no harm had come upon her for her dress of some thick, stiff fabric—had not readily taken up the moisture, and she had almost been floating upon the water. She would be entirely safe now in a minute—three more strokes and he would reach the shore. But suddenly a dull whiteness spread over his face. His legs became stiff and numb as if paralyzed. He was powerless to move them. Then, at the thought of the child perishing away from its mother, a look of terror came into his eyes. With a great effort he straightened himself in the water and then with superhuman strength, he hurled his burden towards the shore. Aye, she had fallen just out of the sweep of the waves! A smile came over the face of the man and without an effort he sank back into the water.

A moment later, the nurse came tripping down to the shore. Catching sight of the child lying limp and motionless upon the sand, she rushed forward and seized her in her arms. Then without casting a glance back over the sea, she turned and ran frantically towards the cottage.

* * * * * *

At dusk, when the tide came in, the body of a man was washed ashore—down where the fishermen were unloading their nets. The minister was passing at the time and some one called to him. It was rapidly growing dark, so one of the men lighted a match and held it close to the motionless form of the man. His black hair was glossy with salt-water and tangled with sea-weeds, but a calm smile rested upon the cold, upturned face.

"Why it's Tom Slocum, the ne'er do well," said the man.

"Drunk and fell overboard," said another.

And the minister, raising his eyes toward the darkening heavens, muttered:

"Yea, 'tis a judgment."

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Among Our New Possessions.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHEN we remember that it is less than a year ago that the Spanish war broke out we can hardly realize the tremendous changes that have come to our American nation in that time. Should one of COMFORT's readers inquire among friends it would be a source of surprise to learn how little the average intelligent reader really appreciates the geographical facts connected with the war. It is almost extraordinary how the popular idea is often wrong both as to geographical position and other facts relative to our new possessions. If one doubts this let him ask himself a few questions and then look at the maps and see how near the truth his belief may be.

Probably a year ago this time but few of us knew or cared about the Philippines, or could have given anything but the most vague information of Manila. In the last few months we have learned much but we think none of us have sufficient information to enable us to say what will be best for the future of the Filipinos. For this reason it seems to COMFORT that President McKinley should be given time to correctly ascertain more about the islands and their people before giving a definite policy for the future.

Events have not been very noticeable in Manila for the past month. The American line has been much extended and was so thin around the city that it was impossible to withdraw troops to make further advances. The successful advance of the Americans always makes the circle of defence around the city larger and makes the line thinner.

In ordinary warfare it is calculated that a line of five miles can be held by twenty thousand soldiers. Now at Manila the lines are about twenty-five miles in extent and only about that number are holding the full extent. If our readers will stop to think of one thousand men holding more than a mile of line, against any part of which a whole army of desperate fighters may be hurled, while but few reinforcements can be spared for any attacked point, they will not wonder that it was possible for six hundred Filipinos to break through our lines and burn many houses; but not without a loss of the whole outfit. The cut at the top of this article shows a native house, by which the reader will observe that the burning of seven or eight hundred native houses in Manila hardly means the same thing as similar news of an American city would. The month has dragged slowly along with little action on the part of General Otis. He has had occasional brushes with the insurgents, but on the whole has waited the arrival of reinforcements which are just reaching him. At this writing a general advance of the American attacking column, formed after the arrival of reinforcements, is being made.

Too much cannot be said in praise of our military and navy in the East. There has been perfect discipline and the Americans have proven themselves the best of soldiers. The arrangements for supplies, etc., have been almost perfect, and there has been nothing to criticise or start scandals as proved to be the case in the Santiago campaign. General Otis like Admiral Dewey, is doing his work quietly and with thoroughness and so far has met with no defeats. It is pleasing to know that Congress restored to the navy the rank of Admiral, which has not been in existence since Porter's death, and that the President immediately placed Dewey's name in nomination, and he is now full Admiral, which places him in the highest naval rank in any nation. Incidentally it may be remarked that many enthusiasts have suggested his name for the Presidency, but the Admiral has written a letter in which he absolutely declines to have his name used in such connection. Several of the islands have voluntarily placed themselves under American colors and with the forming in of reinforcements with General Otis and Admiral Dewey we may look for early news of importance.

The affairs in Cuba and Porto Rico seemingly remain about the same. General Gomez acting for our President, has accepted the mission of paying the Cuban army with $3,000,000 left from



MR. CONGER, U. S. MINISTER TO CHINA.

our war fund. Investigation shows a sudden change in the Cuban army since there is prospect of pay, and instead of the usual military proportion of officers and privates we are gravely informed that there are more than half officers on the pay rolls. What these rapacious "patriots" called the Assembly, which has repudiated Gomez and the Cuban junta in the United States, will want next no man can foresee. They have developed nothing but a spirit of beggary and dishonesty and it is more than probable that when our country refuses to support them in idleness, we shall be under the painful necessity of administering them chastisement. There is little of the poetical or sentimental about the average Cuban. Meantime American capital is restoring work and industry in all parts of the island and as a whole the people are quiet. The lower and dangerous classes, however, profess suspicion of American intentions and probably at a later date will again become brigands. When the time shall arrive, like the Filipinos, they will find Americans differ from the Spanish.

The conditions in Spain have grown continually worse, and although there has been no actual revolution there have been many overt



MR. CECIL RHODES.

acts which, were the Government stronger, would call for immediate suppression. Rumors continue, thick and fast, to the effect that the Carlists are secretly arming all over the kingdom, and are only awaiting a proper time to make a strike for the throne. The Queen Regent's lot at this time is indeed an unhappy one. Ever since the return of the Peace Commissioners from Paris there has been constant turmoil and contention throughout the kingdom, and it is only because the country is in such a desperate condition that no one wishes to assume its reconstruction that there has not been insurrections in many of the provinces.

The return of the Peace Commissioners and also many of the leading officers in the late war has lead to a number of arrests. General Toral, who surrendered the Spanish army at Santiago, is under arrest awaiting court martial; and under the strict Spanish custom, officers arrested for court martial are placed in prison for longer or shorter time awaiting the actual trial. Both Admiral Montojo and Admiral Cervera have been arrested, as well as a number of other leading officers. There seems to be a determined effort on the part of the stay-at-home Spaniards to punish some one for the many defeats suffered by the Spanish arms.

The Cortes, or Spanish Court which is relatively the same as our Congress, was called together for the purpose of considering and ratifying the treaty of peace which was executed by the Commission at Paris. From an Anglo-Saxon point of view, the deliberating bodies of the Latin nations are often fantastic in their excitability and enthusiasm, which seems to the cooler north men as exhibitions of volatility and instability. The meetings of the Cortes were full of acrimonious discussion and unreasonable tirades and criticisms, which even went so far as to call in question the acts of the Queen Regent. Accustomed as Americans are to public criticism this does not seem much; but in monarchies, criticism of royalty always carries with it the liability to suffer under lese majeste, which is the law established under the legal maxim that the king can do no wrong, and criticism of his acts become the same as sedition. There were numerous charges and recriminations by leading members of the Cortes, and finally the Premier Sagasta in disgust resigned his portfolio, which action was followed by the entire ministry. The Queen Regent desired him to reform the cabinet, but he declined; she then named Senor Rios who was at the head of the Peace Commission at Paris, but realizing his unpopuiarity with the Spanish masses on account of his treaty, which is considered by the Spaniards as having yielded everything to the Americans, he refused to undertake to do so, and accordingly Senor Don Francisco Silvela was entrusted with the task of constructing a government to succeed the Liberal ministry. Silvela has been, since the death of Castillo, the leading Conservative in Spain. In last January he announced complete agreement between himself and General Polavieja, who represents the army spirit of Spain. He has continually censured Sagasta and his policies; but from the platform which he has set forth relative to taxation and many Spanish local issues, it seems that he has not studied in vain and that some of the reforms which he proposes would be for the enlightenment and advancement of his country. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs twenty years ago, and afterwards represented his country in France. He has had the usual ups and downs of Spanish statesmanship during his political career, Lieutenant-General Camillo Polaviega, under this ministry, has been offered the portfolio of War. He is one of the most brilliant of Spanish soldiers; he served in the ten years' war in Cuba, and afterwards was made Captain-General of Andalusia. He has been Governor-General in Porto Rico and Cuba, and in 1896 was sent to the Philippine Islands. In common with Weyler, for his extreme cruelty, has been called "The Butcher" which name, by the way, is the Spanish nickname for him and not the American.

It hardly seems possible that a single year could have so entirely changed the policy and conditions of a great nation, and yet by the success of the Spanish War America has been forced to forsake the position of isolation which has been maintained for over a century, and take an active hand in the affairs and conditions of the world.

Under the Monroe Doctrine, we neither allowed interference with American territory, nor did we seek expansion or aggrandizement in foreign lands; but the unexpected fruits of victory have left us with responsibilities from which there can be no evasion. The moral and secret help which England gave us throughout the war, and which prevented overwhelming naval demonstration from the combined European nations which were intended against us, leaves us not only with a debt of gratitude toward the mother country, but a feeling that hereafter our relations are most closely linked. Believing as we do that the Anglo-Saxon idea of personal liberty and freedom is the highest kind of civilization, and that this personal liberty and freedom supported by courts of justice means the betterment of the whole world's people, we stand ready to go forward hand in hand in all proper policies with Great Britain. Such a combination cannot but be for the world's good.

But this new position of the United States as one of the leading powers of the world, brings with it many responsibilities and new questions which did not trouble us in the days of our isolation. In the past year the most desperate attempts have been made to parcel out Chinese territory among the great European powers. By more or less show of force, one power after another has acquired or leased points for naval stations on the Chinese coast. This sort of partition of territory commenced immediately after the Japanese war, by cession of ports to Russia, England and Japan. Since then there has been a plenty of nations reaching out for further concessions of territory. The Russian and Latin nations are in favor of what are called "Spheres of Influence," that is, they
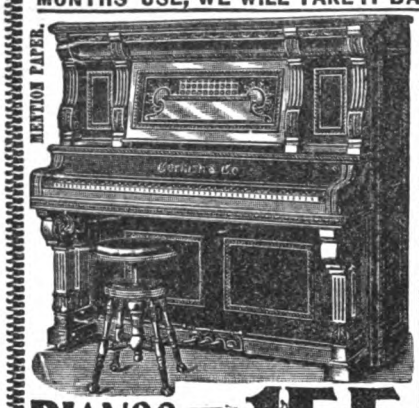
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SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, state your height and weight, bust measure, length of garment from collar down back to waist line, and waist line to bottom of skirt; state color wanted and we will send you this mackintosh by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and by far the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay your express agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $2.95, and express charges.

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FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of everything in ladies' mackintoshes, write for free Sample Book No. 85 C. ADDRESS, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter		$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter		2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "		2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "		1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "		1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Mrs. Mona Perkins,	**$3.00**
Amelia Metcalf Harsh,	**2.50**
Arthur M. Murphy,	**2.00**
Mrs. C. F. Miller,	**1.50**
Ashby Watkins,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Once more we have come to the "uncertain glory of an April day"; how fast the time flies! How little while ago it seems when we were entering upon the grim uncertainties of the war with Spain; and yet one whole year has passed over us since then, and many things have happened in the mean time. The world is not the same as it was one year ago when the smiles and tears of April, 1898, were showered upon us. Is it better? Let us hope so; let us believe so; and let us each do our best to make it so in our "one little place." Certain it is that the dwellers in the lands which the United States has released from the thraldom of Spain during the year that has just passed have great cause to remember and bless it.

And so the years go on. Spring deepens into summer, summer burns itself out into the glorious reds and yellows of autumn, and these in turn give place to the snows of winter. We cannot stay them, and we would not if we could. We can only make the best use possible of the seasons as they fly. So let us glide along into summer with our first letter, and view a bit of the world's beauty and grandeur in this "Big Hill" in western Kansas.

"In a western county of Kansas is a range of hills somewhat like a range of small mountains. The valleys between are termed canons and are covered in season by a wiry grass called 'gumbo grass'. The soil is gumbo, and during the wet weather the roads across the hills are almost impassable.

"There is one hill called by the inhabitants, from its majestic size as compared with the rest, the 'Big Hill.' And it is a very big hill indeed, towering above the rest and making them seem insignificant. The Big Hill can be seen at a distance of fifteen miles, and looks not unlike a mountain rearing its head in the blue haze—I say *blue haze* because it is near the Smoky Hill River, and one familiar with that stream knows of the peculiarly smoky appearance of the atmosphere at a distance.

"The Big Hill was three miles distant from our farm and yet it seemed to be no more than a half mile. But in accomplishing the three miles between one must travel for two or three hours over small hills, deep cuts and narrow ravines that seem interminable. A tour of the Big Hill is something interesting, and to climb it and eat one's dinner on its summit on a pleasant day is something to be remembered.

"On the eastern side it descends in a precipice of at least half a hundred feet, then down, down, in seams, crevasses and ravines to the valley below. The Hill itself looks like it might have been the work of a volcano, as gigantic rocks are strewn here and there, and of very peculiar appearance. On one huge rock imbedded in the hill are carved the names of the people who have visited it. The Hill has three different tops or peaks, the highest one smooth and rounding, the others more or less rugged.

"The rocks from their peculiar appearance have led many people to believe that the hill is rich in minerals, but if so, no one has ever proven it. At least the Big Hill must be classed with all that is picturesque, and well worth the time it takes to visit it."

MRS. MONA PERKINS, Barnard, Kansas.

I regret that I cannot award a prize to the letter from which the following extracts are given. It is well written and interesting, but unfortunately does not comply with the rules governing prize winners; that is to say, most of the letter is drawn from the writer's knowledge of mythology, while I can only give prizes for letters which deal with original subjects.

"DEAR AUNT MINERVA:—Your pictured face is surrounded by imaginary owls. I hail from the sunny South where the living owls haunt the woods surrounding my home. The near approach of an owl, and their weird 'to-whit, to-whoo,' heard in the silence of night, is considered by the superstitious to be an omen of ill tidings. I never hear one near the house without taking a lighted lamp to the window or piazza, and, with my shoe, upon which I have made the sign of the cross, in my hand, repeat aloud these words:

'See the sign of the cross on my shoe,
It is made to prevent the harm you may do;
Go away, and your comrades tell
The power of the cross over evil spell.'

"The owl, of course, immediately vanishes, and I see him no more.

"The ancients considered the owl to be an emblem of prudence and wisdom, and it was, therefore, consecrated to Minerva. Its presence was only considered a fatal omen when it sung or hooted. Its silence was of good import.

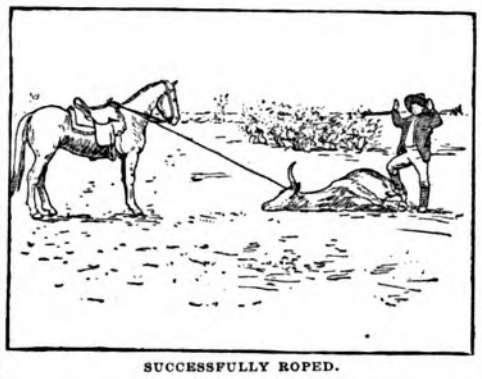
"The story of Minerva's creation is as follows: Jupiter, the God of Heaven, had a violent pain in his head, for which he consulted Vulcan. Vulcan, to relieve him, struck his skull with an axe, when out sprung Minerva, full-grown, in complete armor. She was the Goddess of Wisdom, of Science, of War and of Arts. Among the Greeks she went by the name of Pallas Athenae, and the city of Athens was named for her. The old story goes that when Cecrops, who founded the city, wished a name for it, there was a great difference of opinion in regard to it, and twelve Gods were chosen as arbiters to decide the matter. They decided that the divinity who could furnish the most useful article for the use of the city should have the honor of naming it. Neptune, with a blow of his trident, caused a beautiful horse to spring from the earth, while Minerva or Athenae, with a blow of her lance, produced the olive tree, an emblem of peace. The Gods decided in favor of the olive tree, and so the city was named Athens in honor of the donor of this precious gift."

M. B. INGRAHAM, Augusta, Ga.

The following description of a cattle roping contest in Texas may be objectionable to some of my readers, as savoring somewhat of cruelty to animals: but in forming our judgment of the amusement we must remember that the great business of this part of the country is cattle raising, and that proficiency in cattle roping is, like skill in any business, not only a thing to be proud of, but a very necessary part of a cowboy's education: and certainly the exhibition of this skill is a sight worth going far to see.

"I have been reading, with pleasure, the letters of your nieces and nephews, and hope to be able to join your circle.

"To many of your readers, living in other sections of the country, it may be interesting to read a description of a cattle roping contest. The contest took place at the fair grounds, and several thousands of people had assembled to witness it. In front of the grand stand was a pen, in which were confined twenty-eight of the wildest steers that could be found. Outside of the pen were the same number of cowboys, mounted on stout ponies. A steer was let out, and, angry at having been in such close quarters, made a wild dash for his wont-



SUCCESSFULLY ROPED.

ed liberty. When he had been allowed what the children call a 'hand-start,' at the word 'go', a cowboy started in pursuit.

"Then followed an exciting chase, both steer and pony running at full speed. Round and round over his head the cowboy's lariat circled, then the long open noose sped from the practiced hand toward the fleeing steer. Cries of 'He's got him,' were often followed by 'Oh, the rope broke!' Sometimes the noose, falling over only one horn, slipped off; sometimes the throw missed entirely. If both horns had been secured and the rope stood the strain the steer, still running, could be jerked down. Then a trained cow-pony knows he must stand perfectly still to keep the rope taut. Quicker than it takes to tell it the man dismounts, runs the length of the rope, and ties the animal's four feet together so he will be unable to get up. This being done the vaquero throws up both hands.

"I enclose a photo of one of our best cowboys who has just secured his steer. Sometimes the pony falls when the rope tightens. Not infrequently the cowboy suffers from the fall, but not often seriously. Some steers manage to regain their feet before the cowboy reaches them and then he must remount and make another throw. There is just enough of chance and danger connected with cattleroping, to make it an intensely interesting spectacle. The roping of a steer from the word 'go' till the cowboy throws up his hands, has been accomplished in the remarkably short time of thirty-two seconds. These contests are quite popular amusements in this part of the country, where stock-raising is the chief industry. There is always a good purse for the winner and a consolation prize for the slowest inside of a limited time. Long life to COMFORT!"

AMELIA METCALFE HARSH, San Angelo, Tex.

I have been much interested in reading the following letter on the Navy yard in Portsmouth, Virginia. To visit such a place is an object lesson in itself on the improvements which a hundred years, or even thirty years have developed in methods of warfare, to say nothing of the contrasts to be observed between our warships and those of our late opponent, Spain. Our cousin says:

"I have much enjoyed the letters written by cousins on different topics, and thought perhaps some readers would be interested in a glimpse of the relics found in the Navy yard at Portsmouth, Virginia.

"On entering the yard the first point of interest is a beautiful park, in the center of which is a tall flagstaff. On either side of a walk running directly through the park and in close proximity to each other are arranged cannon of nearly every description and size; in one place may be seen the short and unwieldy cannon used by our forefathers in their struggle for independence; in another we see the carronades captured from the Mexicans; guns which doubtless were drawn side by side with Santa Anna in his march to meet our troops. Mounted on a stone pedestal at the terminus of a walk is a stone labeled: 'Turkish stone shot from Constantinople.' Its gigantic size and weight preclude the possibility of its ever having being fired from a gun, though it has been said such were used on the Bosporus in ancient warfare. In this modern age of science and improved weapons of warfare it presents a novel but formidable appearance.

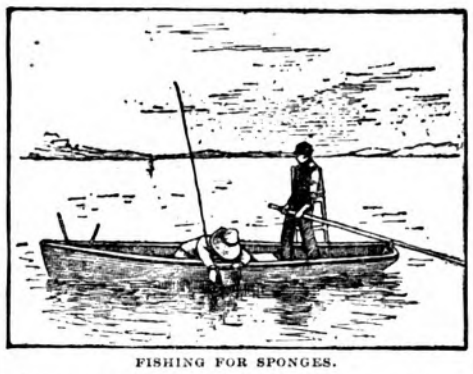
"Interspersed with the guns are pieces of wreckage from famous ships; three pieces of armor is all that is left of the once dreaded Merrimac which enjoys the distinction of being the first iron-clad constructed in America. Pieces from the wrecks of her victims, the Cumberland and Congress, lie close beside the Merrimac's armor, the sight of which carries our minds back to ante-bellum days when the old wooden ships were considered able to cope with all comers.

"In another part of the park is a gun taken from the British frigate Java, captured by the Constitution in 1812; there are also guns captured from the British on lake Erie in the same year. Three guns taken from the Maria Teresa before she started on her disastrous voyage add new interest and attraction to the park. These guns are of five and one-half inch caliber. They are inclosed in shields which bear numerous indentations, probably caused by our rapid-fire guns; they are widely different from our guns, and do not compare favorably with them. Other attractions to the visitors and relic hunters are Hobson's raft, a bronze coat of arms taken from the Colon, and numbers of smaller articles, the mention of which would occupy more space than I can be allowed."

ASHBY WATKINS, Portsmouth, Va.

Now we have a wide-awake, interesting letter on sponge fishing.

"All the sponge used in the United States is caught on the west coast of Florida, and shipped from but two points, Key West and Tarpon Springs. Of these two places Key West is the most important, being the birthplace of the industry, and still



FISHING FOR SPONGES.

containing all the largest packing houses. Of the fleet of about one hundred and fifty vessels engaged in the sponge fishing all but some twenty are owned in Key West, but as fully two-thirds of the crop is caught between Andote Key and Rock Island and cleaned in the kraals near Tarpon Springs that town is really the center of the business.

"The vessels are generally owned by large mercantile houses which make their principal profit from outfitting the boats and provisioning the crews; though there are a few of the captains who own their vessels and depend on the fishing alone for a livelihood. The 'trips' usually last from six to eight weeks, the crews being shipped and the boats provisioned for that length of time. The vessels are small, carrying not more than seventeen men each, and the greater part of the fleet is made up of sloops carrying from three to five men apiece.

"On arriving at the sponging ground the crew are told off into the dingeys, two to each boat, one for hooker while the other sculls. The hooker is ordinarily the oldest and most experienced, so the captain is always a hooker. Each morning when the boats leave the vessels, the sculler takes his place in the stern and sculls slowly along while the hooker, throwing himself down in the bow, watches for the sponge through his water glass, which is a bucket with a glass plate in the bottom. This, being forced a foot or more under the surface of the water, enables him to see the bottom without being disturbed by the motion of the waves. When he discovers a sponge he lowers his hook, which is three-pronged and fastened to a pole some forty feet in length, and catching it under the sponge he drags it up. When the boat is filled it returns to the vessel, where the catch is laid out on the deck to die.

"At the end of each week the vessels return to the kraals, which are enclosures of stakes set in shallow water, into which the sponge is thrown to soak, while the catch of the previous week is taken out and beaten with short clubs to free it of the black matter contained in them. When perfectly clean the sponges are strung on short strings and tied in bunches. At the end of the trip the catch is taken to some central place to be sold. The buyers examine the piles, weighing them by hand, and then each one writes his bid on a slip of paper and hands it to some person appointed to receive them. He opens the bids and reads them aloud to the captain, the highest bidder getting the cargo.

"The profits of the trip are divided into shares. First the expenses of the trip are paid; then the owner of the vessel gets his share; and lastly the crew, the captain getting a slightly larger share than the men.

"The ordinary value of the sponge caught by the fleet during each trip is between $60,000 and $90,000,



PREPARING THE SPONGES.

varying with climatic conditions, as during part of the year the water is so dark that it is difficult for the hooker to see the sponge or even the bottom."

ARTHUR M. MURPHY, Andote, Florida.

Our next letter is part of a description sent me of the city of Dayton, Ohio.

"The County seat of Montgomery County is one of the most beautiful inland cities of Ohio, and is well worthy of name 'The Gem City.'

"It is situated at the junction of the Mad and Miami Rivers. Most of the streets are broad and well paved. The principal residence streets are lined with elegant and comfortable houses, generally surrounded with well trimmed lawns and shade trees, making a very pretty appearance. The business portion has fine public and large office and business buildings of commanding appearance, with all the up-to-date improvements in construction.

"The city is supplied with an abundance of pure water and has an excellent system of electric lighting for the streets. The population is about ninety thousand (90,000). If all the streets were joined they would be one hundred and fifty-eight miles in length, thirty miles of which are paved. Companies 'I' and 'G' of the 3rd Regiment, Ohio National Guards are stationed here. No other city can boast a more thoroughly organized and efficient police force. The fire department is also one of the best in the country.

"There are six electric car lines in the city, also a Traction line to Cincinnati and one to Eaton, Ohio, soon to be built through to Richmond, Ind.

"The 'National Home' for disabled volunteer soldiers is also located here, three miles west of the city. The grounds embrace about six hundred acres of land. It has a library, hotel, theater, two churches, hospital, large cemetery and monu-



OLD SETTLER'S LOG CABIN.

ment, deer parks, lakes, etc. This beautiful spot is reached by four different car lines and annually attracts over three hundred thousand people from all parts of the country.

"'Old Settlers Log Cabin' was the first house in Dayton, built April 1st, 1796. A sketch of this accompanies this letter."

SAMUEL R. KRENMER, Dayton, Ohio.

Have any of you ever been in a watchmaking establishment, or even in a watchmaking town? If you have not you will enjoy this description of the immense watchmaking business carried on in Elgin, Illinois.

"Elgin, Illinois, is a beautiful little town of about twenty thousand inhabitants, situated on the banks of the Fox river, forty miles from Chicago. The Elgin National Watch Company carry on the chief industry of the place, the factory being a three story building, covering nearly two acres of ground. In it there are fifteen different rooms devoted to as many departments of the work; the plate, punch, dial, spring, machine, gilding, motion, balance, train, escape, finishing, timing, transfer dial, jewel, and stem wind. Besides these rooms there are the various offices, a pretty and convenient reception room, and a store room.

"At seven in the morning the employes, numbering about three thousand, of which more than half are women, enter at three large doors; after five minutes past seven none are allowed to enter until half-past nine At seven the power starts and goes on with a tremendous noise until six in the evening with the exception of the dinner hour at noon.

"Most of the employes sit while at work, and to each one is furnished a chair, a stool, and an electric light. To each one is assigned some particular part of the work, and this they do week after week, month after month, until they become very expert in that one thing. They are paid, usually, by the piece, and some handle twelve and fifteen thousand pieces per day, while others, whose work is more difficult, perhaps turn off only two or three hundred per day. After each operation is completed the pieces are taken by errand boys and girls to another employe for the next process. Before the pieces are allowed to leave a room they pass through the office connected with that room, where they are inspected and counted.

"When complete the watches, or movements, more properly speaking, are put into large boxes, into which they are fitted so that they cannot jostle, and are then conveyed to the freight trains which run through the grounds and which take them to the main office in Chicago. From there they are finally sold and shipped to their destinations."

MRS. C. F. MILLER, Dundee, Illinois.

And now, since my space is filled I must bid you a reluctant good-by for another month.

AUNT MINERVA.

BOYS WANTED.

We pay boys and girls to collect all kinds of used postage stamps for us. For further particulars send two unused 2-cent stamps to Eastern Philatelic Co., Dept. 1, Concord, N. H.

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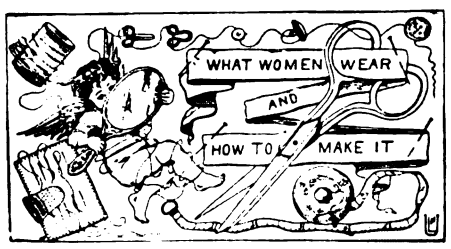
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THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



OF essential importance is it that you should learn, and that without delay, the cut of the latest skirt, for no portion of the toilette nowadays more thoroughly marks out the woman of fashion than this. And it is written that skirts shall cling affectionately about the hips, and almost to the knees; but from there an outward slope is taken, which results in folds that again in some sort cling about the feet.

Though here comes a disputed point, some averring that an interlining of any sort is unnecessary, whereas others maintain that the base needs, if anything, more steadying than ever. And only an interlining is capable of contriving this. It must be unstiffened lining, such as Irish linen or undressed muslin. The general effect, with certain necessary variations, tending to slimness from waist to hem. There are, as usual, many ways of arriving at the same result, but I have selected the one which lends itself to the greatest simplicity and fewest seams. It is composed of two pieces. Whether the lining be used separately or in one, it would be cut and made up on precisely the same lines, a detail that reminds us that a foot flounce of the lining would serve to set out the edge of the outer skirt in place of interlining. Stiffening is really a matter of discretion and circumstance; some materials demand a support, while others hang with perfect symmetry without. A placket-hole occurs down the center-back seam, and is faced back a good inch and a half on the right side, and a fold of equal width set on to the edge of the other. Over this entrance the pleats are laid, and either genuinely or ostensibly secured by buttons and cord loops.

Dresses are now so marked for each particular section of the day that a smart home toilette is as necessary to all as the walking dress, for the reason also that only in the street is the smart woman permitted to garb herself with a certain amount of simplicity. For the rest she must be frilled and furbelowed and aggressively feminine. This change is not one altogether good for most of us, and it is, indeed, difficult to keep pace with the times. Cashmere is a good standby for pretty, trailing home gowns. And a good idea for the making has somewhat of a princess effect by reason of the scalloped edge of the upper skirt being continued up the bodice. This upper skirt is cut in one piece by opening the material to its fullest width and placing the selvedge to the waist. The lower or front skirt follows the same principle, but naturally is not brought round so far. Black mousseline appliqued with ecru is laid on as three insertion bands, the same on the bodice, where also a deep frill of the same falls bertha-like over the shoulders and continues round the back. The sleeves are very tight-fitting, and like the edge of the overskirt are bound with satin ribbon. A soft green would combine well with the black mousseline lace, and a heliotrope shade would do well for an older woman.

The lightest colors have been worn abroad all the winter. The palest greys and fawns seem essentially suitable for early spring and in wearing them we may feel assured we will be quite in the fashion. A pretty model for a walking-dress is quite simple and of smoke



TAFFETA SILK WAIST.

grey. The skirt is perfectly close fitting, severly plain round the hips, and laced up the back with a double row of buttons and cords. The bodice is made with loose fronts and wide revers of white cloth. These form a rounded collar at the back and cross in the front, being fastened with a large, round cut-steel buckle. The vest is of fine mousseline de soie inserted with Valenciennes lace with a soft frill of lace on either side of the front.

A very fetching gown of thin wool, in a delicate shade of biscuit color, sets forth the new tunic effect, which has been so much talked of in Paris during the past winter. The skirt proper is fitted very closely though with considerable swirl at the foot; it is trimmed in bayadere effect with bands of golden-brown velvet ribbon—disappearing under the edges of the pointed tunic, which latter has for its only ornamentation a row of stitching at the head of the hem—the soft bodice opens at the front from the shoulder within a few inches of the waist line, where stitched and caught together with stiff little bows of brown velvet; similar bows ornament each side of stock which with vest are composed of creamy toned liberty silk laid in soft tucks. The close sleeves are finished at the wrist with a row of stitching around the point which falls deep over the hand. With it is worn a jaunty hat of yellow Tuscan straw the rolling front faced with golden-brown velvet, its only other decoration being a cleverly arranged scarf of creamy lace. A good model for a gown of liberty taffeta in a soft purplish blue has the skirt modishly decorated with flounces arranged so as to represent a tunic. The bodice has a ruffle of the silk set over the shoulders bertha fashion, the heading hidden under bands of purple velvet, deeper toned than the silk, between these bands and



IN TUNIC EFFECT.

in the vest space, is set white muslin daintily laid in small, French tucks. The stock of white, has stiff little bows of purple velvet under each ear—completing the gown.

Herewith is given, an up-to-date shirtwaist in taffeta which may readily be copied in any of the pretty plain colored organdies or dimities if made over lining of silk or nearsilk, matching it perfectly in color. The back has a small pointed yoke set in tiny pleats while the front is provided with three double-boxpleats, reaching from shoulder to belt. The front pleat showing a smart fastening of fancy buttons, made of purple enamel in the shape of violets, each having a tiny rhinestone in the center in lieu of a dewdrop. Speaking of fancy buttons, the most extravagant sorts imitating jewels in the most clever way, and coming in all colors of the rainbow are considered quite "au fait"—on all the more elaborate shirtwaists. It is a pretty fad and as long as there is some actual use to recommend it, it is not unlikely to become very popular during the summer.

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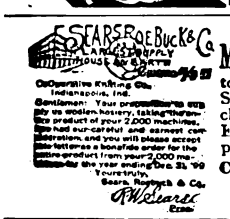
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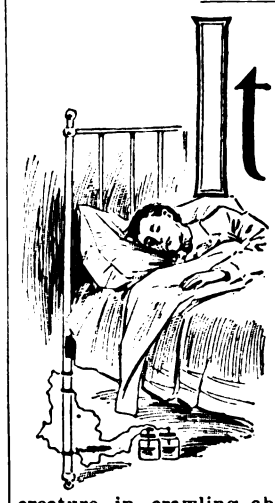
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UNFIT TO LIVE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



It HAS remained for an American inventor to devise a scheme for electrocuting a bedbug.

The author of the contrivance is Frank M. Archer, of New York City. It consists of an electrical arrangement, which is applied to the bedstead in such a manner (as described by the inventor) that "a current is sent through the bodies of the bugs, which will either kill them or startle them so that they will leave the bedstead."

"In fact, the arrangement is such that the predatory creature, in crawling about, is sure to come upon a spot where it completes the circuit and accomplishes its own electrocution.

If it happens to be an unsually lucky insect, it is merely "startled", and has a chance to skip, giving thanks to the Providence which shapes things appropriately for bedbugs. Philosophers have long deemed it a mistake to suppose that Providence extends its interest and interference exclusively to human affairs.

The contrivance referred to, as described in the patent, "consists of a battery, induction-coil, a switch, and a number of circuits leading to various locations on the bedstead, where are placed suitable circuit-terminals." As the inventor further states, "At proper locations on the bedstead, preferably such as are inhabited to the greatest extent by bedbugs, as at the joint and angles, I place pairs of metallic contacts, insulated from each other, but so close together that an insect in passing from one to the other must necessarily close the circuit between the contacts. If these are placed on a leg of the bedstead, an insect in climbing up will, when it receives the shock, more than likely change its mind and return in the direction whence it came. In like manner contact-strips in pairs, constituting the terminals of the circuit, may be located at various places on the bedstead or on the bed-springs, which will so harass the bugs as to cause them to shun the bed entirely. Obviously the apparatus need not be in operation all the time. It may be in operation during the day and shut off at night by opening the switch, and after the insects have been exterminated from the bed it need be used only at long intervals.

In other words, when a gentleman becomes conscious of a bite, he need only press a button, and the instrument will do the rest.

The value of the precious metals in Solomon's temple were estimated at $34,399,121,500.

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Standard makes. Everyone a bargain. Various styles. Highest grade high arm machines. We are closing out the stock of a well known make at less than factory cost. We are under contract not to advertise the name for at our prices it would ruin their agents. Don't miss this opportunity. WE GUARANTEE the machine for years — most for your money — satisfaction in every purchase. Shipped on approval. If not right don't keep it. A few good AGENTS WANTED.
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[This is an old house and reliable. Machine is a bargain—Editor.]

Tailor Made SUIT $4.98



Jacket elegantly silk lined, skirt superbly finished; made from Lamb's Celebrated Fast Color All-wool fine Twilled Serge, equal every way to others' $10 Suits. Choice of electric blue, navy blue or black color.
SEND NO MONEY but send this advertisement with color desired; give bust and waist measure, length of skirt (down front) from skirtband to bottom and we'll send the suit by express C.O.D. and allow you to try it on before you pay a cent. If found just as represented, a perfect fit and worth every penny of $10 then pay the express agent $4.98 and express. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory.
THE SUIT is made by expert men tailors over designs drawn by that king of ladies' tailors, M. LaRochelle, from Lamb's Best All Wool Fast Color Serge, famous everywhere for its rich, soft bloom and beautiful appearance.
The Jacket is made in latest single-breasted style, with tight-fitting back and new fashionable sleeves, it is superbly trimmed with fine satin bands, artistically double silk-stitched and elaborately lined with real French silk of beautiful colorings and exquisite designs.
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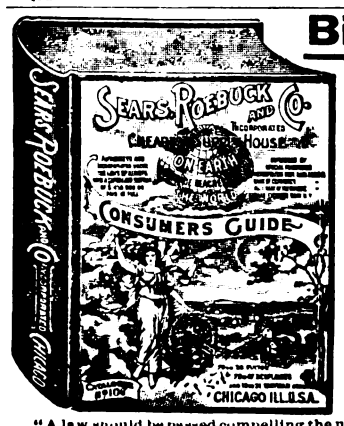
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FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.
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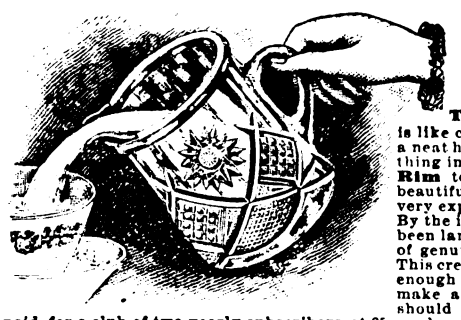


A Cute Foot-Rest FREE.
Useful Ornaments are sought after at all seasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of goods that are sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could never be obtained at a low price before (they sell for $1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out by machines in pretty colored durable goods, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California. It comes in the shape of a handsome Spaniel *Bow-Wow*, lying down, size about 8x12 inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not in use by grandma or yourself or company as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is so life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, 57,396 have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find them great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start with.
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A New and Quick Method of Learning to Play the Piano or Organ Without a Teacher.



You Learn in a Moment What it Takes a Teacher Months to Explain to You.

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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

"IN five years' time," said a well-known bicycle expert in my hearing the other day, "the bicycle will have given way to the auto-mobile and only a few wheelmen-racers will be seen on a wheel."

While I do not believe that, it is well for us to recognize the fact that the auto-mobile has already come to be a common thing in our large cities and there is no doubt that during the coming season we shall see them in almost daily use. In New York auto-cabs have been running all winter and the horseless hansom no longer excites a passing comment, except from the country visitor to whom it is a new and odd sight. In Boston there will be established this spring a line of auto-mobile omnibuses along Tremont Street to take the place of the horse and electric cars that have been a feature of that thoroughfare since 1857. And there is no doubt that these are only entering wedges and that in a year or so we shall see them everywhere in the large cities and accept them without question. In the country, however, they will never take the place of the faithful and intelligent horse, as even the best of them are apt to fail in a snow-storm and there are times when "the power gives out". Neither will they take the place of the horse as a means for pleasure riding or driving.

One great blessing will be the dray and express or parcel wagons. These will be a great convenience in cities, as they will be more available in crowded streets and more manageable. Those of us who have seen noble horses tugging and straining at heavy loads under profane and cruel drivers will welcome the day when they are superseded by the electric dray. Manufacturers claim that these delivery wagons can make twenty-five miles a day at a low estimate against a horse's fifteen miles. They cost from $750 to $3500, but the expense of running them is only about ten cents a day against thirty-five cents for a horse, including wear and tear of the team.

The great bicycle manufacturers are going into the making of auto-mobiles of all kinds, which shows what they think of the future. At the New York Bicycle show recently an electric carrier to be used for delivering parcels was one of the cheaper motor wagons on exhibition. It has three wheels—two in the back, over which the driver sits, and one in front of the box, which contains the goods. In order to show the advantage of this carrier over a horse and wagon, the manufacturers prepared a table which showed that the electric carrier and operation will cost the first year $1,512.50 and will give 7,500 miles of service, while a horse and wagon and operation will cost in the first year $2,062.74, and give only 4,500 miles of service, making a gain of $552.24 and 3,000 miles of service in favor of the electric carrier.

By the same calculation it was shown that two motor carriers will do the work of three single horse and wagon outfits and show a balance in favor of the carriers of $2,642.98 or a saving of forty-seven per cent.

The pleasure wagons are of all kinds: stanhopes, surreys, cabs, etc. Some are built with their own power to be supplied, such as the gasoline wagons at $750, while some are to get their power from the lighting plant of the town. The storage batteries are less cumbersome than they were a year or two ago, when they were first started, and constant improvements are being made in this respect as well as in their construction generally, so that it is safe to assume that another year will see prices materially lower.

Electric carriages are built in all respects like a bicycle; even to the ball-bearings, which require the same care. Storage batteries, it is claimed, require less care than horses, though of a different kind, of course. Like a horse the storage battery cannot be abused or over-worked without breaking down. They can be charged at any 110-volt direct current circuit such as is used for lighting; or where this direct current is not available the alternating current can be transformed into the 110-volt by an apparatus which is manufactured for the purpose at a reasonable figure. One plan is to have electric hydrants placed at convenient points for the accommodation of the owners of electric vehicles.

In weight the new motor wagons vary from 2000 to 3300 pounds and the battery weighs about one-third of this weight. They look heavy compared with the ordinary vehicles but when it is remembered that the weight of these combines that of the horses and carriage that make up the team ordinarily in use it is not so bad; and as improvements go on, the weight will doubtless be decreased.

The front wheels of the new motor wagons are usually thirty-two inches in diameter and the rear or driving wheels thirty-six. The heavy vehicles have solid rubber tires while the pleasure wagons have pneumatic tires, three inches through and corrugated to prevent their slipping. The wheels are usually made with wire spokes like those of the bicycle.

So far the greatest advancement in motor-cycles has been made in France and Germany; but now that America has taken hold of it there is no doubt that we shall soon take the lead in improvements as we do in everything else.

However, don't be in a hurry to give up your bicycle, for I believe that is a thing that has come to stay, and that with the constant improvements that are being made in it, we shall be riding wheels five years from now that will make our present "safeties" and chainless wheels seem cumbersome and ugly.

In this connection it seems profitable to quote the famous prophecy of "Mother Shipton". It was made in England in 1485, more than four hundred years ago, before railroads, telegraphs, electricity, or bicycles were even dreamed of, and at a time when if a man had openly predicted such things as a definite possibility he would have been tried and perhaps condemned to death as a wizard. Now every one of these predictions has come true except that the world has not come to an end, nor seems likely to. The prophecy seems to have a direct bearing, however, on the objects of this column.

Carriages without horses shall go,
And accidents fill the world with woe.
Around the world thoughts shall fly,
In the twinkling of an eye.
Water shall more wonders do,
Now strange, yet shall be true,
The world upsidedown shall be,
And gold be found at root of tree.
Through hills man shall ride,
And no horse nor ass be at his side.
Under water men shall walk,
Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk.
In the air men shall be seen;
In white, in black, in green.
Iron in the water shall float
As easy as a wooden boat.
Gold shall be found mid stone,
In a land that's now unknown.
Fire and water shall wonders do,
England at last admit a Jew;
And this world to an end shall come,
In eighteen hundred and eighty-one.

Commerce of the United States.



THE United States is a big country every way. The figures representing its commerce are something enormous. The whole amount of tonnage—goods of all kinds transported—last year on all the oceans was about 140,000,000 tons, while the tonnage of all the railways of the world, carried one hundred miles, was about 1,400,000,000 tons. There are 400,000 miles of railroad in the whole world, nearly half of which, 180,000 miles, are in the United States. Of the 1,400,000,000 tons carried one hundred miles last year on the railroads of the world, 800,000,000 were carried in the United States. If to the 600,000,000 tons carried on the railroads outside of this country, are added the whole tonnage carried on the sea by all nations, 140,000,000 tons, there are still 60,000,000 tons more carried by the railroads of the United States than all other countries put together plus that carried on the seas. Our enormous crops of all kinds raised throughout the country added to the products of innumerable manufacturies establish a commerce that is wonderful in its extent.

The Post Office Department of the United States is a very expensive one, the expenditures being from $10,000,000 to $12,000,000 more than the receipts annually. In Great Britain the Postal Service is a source of considerable revenue, the receipts last year being $23,550,000 more than the expenditures. But it must be remembered, in explanation of this, that Great Britain has a dense population, the country is small, and there are no broad prairies and mountain ranges to be crossed, or rivers of large size to be navigated.



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We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

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This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Editor.

Send no Money.



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SEND NO MONEY if you live within 400 miles of Chicago, but send this adv., state if Ladies' or Gents' is desired, and we'll send this our **'99 Model HURON Bicycle** by express C.O.D., subject to examination; **examine it critically** at express office and if found just as represented, the grandest bicycle value on earth and **fully equal to others' $35 and $40 bicycles,** then pay the express agent our **special price $17.95** and expressage. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory. If you live over 400 miles from Chicago send **$1.00 deposit and we'll ship it C.O.D. for $16.95** on above conditions.

OUR HURON Bicycle at $17.95 is wonderful value and a rare bargain. It' made by the best expert bicycle builders that money can employ from strictly first-class material, beautifully finished and is equal to any $35.00 bicycle ever built. It has every improvement, all the good points and no defects. Exclusive dealers under their own name and name-plate get $40.00 for identically the same bicycle. **TAKE YOUR CHOICE** of Men's 22 or 24-inch **Frame,** Ladies' 20 or 22-inch **Frame,** any style **Handle Bar,** 68 to 96 **Gear** and Black, Green or Maroon **Colors,** made from 1¼ best cold drawn steel tubing with 2¾-inch drop in **Crank Hanger,** stylish '99 Gilliam **Saddle,** Willard's two-piece highly nickeled 6½-inch throw **Cranks,** heavily nickeled, fine forged large sized **Sprockets,** both detachable, our own guaranteed single tube **Tires,** best double swaged highly nickeled Spokes, Westley Hubs, best Swedish steel bearings, non-warpable Wood Rims, full Ball Bearings throughout with Ball retainers, strictly dust proof, **complete set of tools in tool bag free.**

WE GUARANTEE this bicycle **one year.** During that period we will replace or repair Free any part that gives out on account of defect in material or construction. **A written guarantee** to that effect sent with every wheel.

A $4.00 GAS LAMP FREE with every bicycle. Positively no **extra charge. $17.95 pays for both.** The price of the bicycle is $17.95—**the lamp is FREE**—burns Acetylene Gas generated from carbide which all druggists sell; gives a white, steady, penetrating light, will not jar nor blow out, twenty times brighter than any oil lamp, **retailed everywhere for $4.00,** made from solid brass, highly nickeled, will last for years. This beautiful Gas Lamp is **FREE with every order for our Huron Bicycle at $17.95.**



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We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 18 packages of **Royal English Ink Powder** at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you sell the **Ink Powder** send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. **We trust you.** Don't lose this grand opportunity. **Write for the outfit today.** Address all orders to **IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.**

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!



To introduce our new line of **Quadruple Plated Silverware** we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful **gold lined fluted top Quadruple Plated Silver dishes FREE** to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quadruple plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than $1.00 or $1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of eatables either on dining or side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 37c, for a year's subscription or will send both dishes, all charges paid if you remit 62c. for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich.



SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

$2.45



$2.45 GOLD PLATED

Cut this ad. out and send to us, **SEND NO MONEY** and we will send you this watch by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and in every way equal to watches that are being advertised at $3.75 to $6.75 under such misleading descriptions as **Elgin Style, American Style,** Gold Filled or Look Like $20.00 to $30.00 Gold Filled Watches, etc. If you find it the equal or better than any of these watches, pay the express agent OUR PRICE, $2.45 and express charges.

Don't be Deceived by catchy advertisements which would lead you to believe you could get a $25.00 or $50.00 watch for $3.75 to $6.75, when we sell the same watch for **$2.45.**

OUR $2.45 WATCH is gents' full 18-size **Hunting Case or Screw Back and Bezel dust proof Open Face,** stem wind and set, gold plated, handsomely engraved and polished, looks like a high-grade gold filled, and is a great trading watch, movement is nickel 7-jeweled stem wind American, warranted, and a good time-keeper. **For Watches from 98 cents up, gold-filled watches $3.75 and up, write for free Watch and Jewelry Catalogue.**

Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.**

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

FEEL YOUR PULSE



Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

Address DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 Augusta, Maine.

THE CUP THAT CURES.

NEVER RUNS DRY.

GALLONS OF MEDICINE FREE.

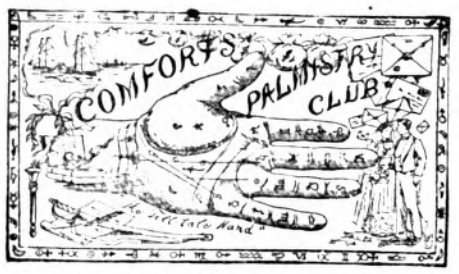


"The Literary Companion" has been published 30 years, and during that time its Editor has been obliged to fight disease of all kinds, and in spite of having **contracted malaria in the war of the Rebellion** he has kept at his desk daily. When the country has been under the sway of fevers and other deadly contagious disease, **when in '91 the deadly epidemic of "Grip"** swept the land with such awful fury, he was fully fortified to withstand all of the **cyclone results,** and has kept as active, well and hearty as any mortal could who has overcome so many ailments. He will now tell you how to keep well yourself. You see the illustration of the **Tonic Cup. Well, here is the secret.** It has long been known that **Quassia** wood contained special medicinal properties which surely relieve and cure **Malaria, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Rheumatism** and like diseases of **Body, Stomach, Kidney** and **Liver**—and by long and careful experiments with this wood it is now by a **lately invented new process prepared** and turned into forms which are in every way far superior to anything ever produced in the line of **Quassia Cups. Gallons** of **medicine** can be gotten from one of these **Tonic Cups** by simply pouring water into it and letting it stand a short time, when it will be found to be changed into the best tonic medicine ever made and can be drank direct from the cup itself or poured into any tumbler or bottle. These cups are **Veritable Fountains of Health and Youth.** A perfect river which will carry you on to the flood tide of prosperity and long life. Every member of every family in the land should use one, and one cup in each family will furnish medicine for the **whole family to drink.** The problem of economy in doctor's bills has been solved, and sickness can now be banished without employing the expensive methods of former times.

FOUNTAIN of HEALTH AND YOUTH.

ONE CUP SENT FREE To help all the people possible I will send one cup free to any one who will send 25c. for a year's subscription to the Literary Companion. This paper in itself was a $1.00 a year paper. We want new subscribers and I want to acquaint people with this wonderful Tonic Cup, and thus adopt this means of advertising them, for where one goes to jog the jaded appetite hundreds can be sold as nearly every family will take one and agents can make money selling them and taking subscriptions for the paper. Send 25c. to-day and get agents' terms on dozen and hundred lots.

Address LITERARY COMPANION, H. Sub. Dept. Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

A MEMBER or our Palmistry Club wants to know if we should take into account anything besides the lines in reading a hand. Bless me! Haven't I said enough on that point? I am sure I have repeated over and over again, the statement that everything about the hand must be taken into account; the texture, the shape, the size, the quality, the hardness or softness, in fact, all the conditions, considering the lines the last thing. Consequently as I have often said in this department, if my readings are ever at fault, it is because in a photograph, smoked paper impression or casts it is impossible to give anything of an idea of the quality of a hand or anything besides the size and shape.

Cheiro, the greatest of living palmists, gives the following directions to his student: "Examine every portion of the hand—back, front, nails, skin, color—before speaking. See whether the thumb is long or short or poorly developed; whether the will phalange is firm or supple, strong or weak. Then turn your attention to the palm; see whether it is hard, soft or flabby. Always look at the left hand before you say what you read from the right, as it is impossible to read either correctly without studying both. Next remark the proportion of the fingers to the palm, whether they are long, short, thin or thick; class them as a whole if they belong to a particular type, or if mixed, class each finger separately. Notice the nails carefully; their bearing on health, temper and disposition. Classify the entire hand and then look at the mounts; see which have the greatest prominence and which are lacking.

"Now proceed to the lines. It is best to start with the lines of life and health, reading them together; then take the line of head, the fate-line, the heart-line and then the minor or chance lines. Speak honestly of what you see, and if you see a line of which you do not know the meaning ask leave to wait before passing judgment on it until you have consulted good authority. Never hazard a guess at the meaning of a line until you are so proficient in the science of palmistry that you will be able to judge from contingent lines what the meaning of the unfamiliar ones may be. Be sympathetic; enter into the lives and feelings of the person before you and let your entire ambition be to do them good. Think of your work first, yourself last."

It may be said right here that this is one secret of Cheiro's great success; he does enter into the lives and minds of his consultors to such an extent that his power of reading the hand amounts almost to divination. Some of the best readers that I know have developed this power, also, and it is a wonderful thing and great aid to the palmist. First of all, however, the palmist-reader should consider his work with the greatest respect; if you do not respect it, no one else will.



ALEX.

So many have been asking for the above information, that I have given it at the expense of reading more than two hands this month. But I am sure all are willing to wait patiently for their turn, knowing that it takes several months at best, and that in a club so large as ours, the greatest good of the greatest number must always be remembered first.

"Alex" has the hand of a very ambitious man; one that will succeed in everything he undertakes from sheer force of will and the perseverance that goes with it. I have no hesitation in saying that "Alex" has received many a hard blow in his fights with the world, that would have utterly discouraged a man of weaker fiber; but although he has been cast down after these varied discouragements, he has always risen again and given the world good battle and so has gained what he has striven for against heavy odds. For this quality he will always succeed, simply because he never admits that there is such a word as "failure". It would be a good thing if more of our young men had his grit. The men who succeed have to have this quality and those who are lacking in it would do well to set about cultivating it at once. This man is a statesman and orator; but he is the latter only when he is interested in the thing he is talking about. He cannot get up and talk on any subject that comes up, as the born orator can; but when he is absorbed in a subject he talks in a way that makes the whole world stop and listen. In many ways this man is remarkable. He will live to be about three-score years and ten and although the world in general admires his physical condition and thinks him the personification of good health, it is only because he governs himself by that iron determination of his and will not allow himself to get sick or weak; if he gave up to his inclinations he could easily become a half invalid. In matters of the heart, the same conditions exist. He has had one or two great disappointments, enough to make an ordinary man a woman-hater forever, and inflict upon the entire sex the contempt engendered by the exceptions he has been injured by; but he knows better than this, and by sheer determination he has recovered from the blows that would have swamped a weaker man. In many ways, a remarkable hand, showing a remarkable character.

"B. S. C." has a hand almost diametrically opposite, although this, too, shows great strength of character. This person is feminine to the last degree. She dislikes encountering the world and shrinks from anything like publicity. When trouble comes on her she retires from the gaze of people, even those nearest and dearest to her, and bears her trouble as best she may; but she never forgets and never overcomes. She is very artistic, fond of music, poetry, pictures, nature and beautiful things; and she is indolent by inheritance and by inclination. She would prefer remaining in the background of home even if it means dependence on relatives and friends. She is very refined in thought and in temperament. She too, is ambitious, but she would never be willing to undergo discouragement or hardship for the sake of gratifying ambitions. She is very warm-hearted,



B. S. C.

so much so that she is destined to great suffering all her life from her affections. An indifferent word, a careless look even, makes her miserable for days when coming from the one she loves above all others; about the opinions of others she cares too little. She is a born aristocrat and I hope has sufficient means to gratify her exclusive tastes; else she will be miserable. Two marriages are indicated which will be as happy as her temperament will allow.

Two or three more requests have come in for our rule for taking smoked paper impressions. Here it is:

Take a large sheet of white paper, legal cap or commercial note. Hold it carefully over an oil or spirit lamp, or, better yet, a tallow candle, lighted. Hold it near enough the flame so that the smoke will leave a fine black deposit, without burning the paper. A little practice will soon teach the right angle at which it should be held. When the paper is well smoked, lay it, smoked side up, on a flat table or board (without a cloth). Then place the right hand, palm downward, firmly on the paper, pressing hard without moving the hand a hair's breadth. Keep it so a minute, and take up the hand quickly without disturbing the impressions of the lines in the least. Have ready some artists' fixatif (procurable at any store where artists' materials are kept) in an atomizer. With the latter squeeze sufficient fixatif over the impression made on the paper to keep it from rubbing. This gives an indelible impression.

Digitus

$2.00 ASTROLOGICAL READING FREE.
I will send full life reading and answer all questions with pen picture of future affinity for 10 cts. (postage expenses). Give date of birth. It may mean wealth and happiness. Ad. Prof. Æolis, Philadelphia, Pa.

EVERYBODY WEARS COLLAR BUTTONS.
Send us only 5c. and we send you **Six** Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. **5 cents for 6.** Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The highest railroad in the world is the Colorado Midland at the Continental Divide, where it is nearly twelve thousand feet above sea level.

'99 BICYCLES $5 to $35
To introduce '99 models for spring we will this month name Astonishingly Low Prices on highest grade wheels. ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED. Our name stamps them the best. Wonderful Opportunity. BUY NOW Extra special price made agents this month. Get reliable agency and make money. OUR WHEELS SELL. Shipped on approval. Liberal terms. Write now. Get catalogue and Sundry List. Large stock '98 Wheels below cost. LEARN HOW WE GIVE A WHEEL FREE. Northern Cycle & Supply Co., A-80, 73 Wells St., Chicago.

BABY CARRIAGES Shipped C. O. D.
Anywhere to anyone at Wholesale Prices. NO MONEY IN ADVANCE. Buy from factory, save dealers' profits $18 Carriages for $9. | $5.00 Carriages for $2.50 $12 " " $6. | GO-CARTS from $2.50 up. Send for free illustrated catalog and freight offer. CASH BUYERS' UNION, 164 West VanBuren Street, B-5 Chicago, Ills.

CHILD LOST For 18 years. Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C, 245, Saratoga, New York.

SALARY $900.00 A YEAR $75 MONTHLY. STRAIGHT OUT SALARY. BONAFIDE SALARY. NO MORE, NO LESS SALARY
Several trustworthy gentlemen or ladies wanted in each state to manage our business in their own and nearby counties. It is mainly office work conducted at home. Salary straight $900 a year and expenses—definite, bonafide, no commission, easy to understand. Six years in business find us compelled COMPETENT RELIABLE MANAGERS to secure to handle our rapidly growing trade. References. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope.
THE DOMINION COMPANY,
Dept. N 5 - Chicago, Ill

50 CENTS.
Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this Violin and Outfit by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent our special offer price, $3.25, less the 50 cents, or $2.75, and express charges. This is a regular $8.00 Stradivarius Model Violin, richly colored, highly polished, powerful and sweet in tone, complete with fine maple bow, one extra set of strings, violin case, rosin and one of the best instruction books published. Write for free musical instrument and organ and piano catalogue.
Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

PEPSIN-SALTED PEANUTS.

Dyspepsia, Insomnia and Other Ills Cured by the Common American Peanut.

IF the day ever dawns when science shall have robbed Nature of her last secret the world's people of that era will marvel at the host of simple things that Nature possessed for the welfare of mankind. Diligent investigation has lately discovered that the common American peanut contains qualities which when scientifically prepared and made operative with salt and pepsin in proper proportions acts with amazing promptitude on the gastric juices, relieving almost immediately dyspeptic disturbances, and, in time, curing dyspepsia in its worst forms.

To America is due the honor of having first produced the peanut (arachis hypogæa). Its true name is "goober," and Virginia is noted for exceptionally large crops of the nut. Since something of its real value has become known other warm countries succeeded in growing it. The plant is leguminous and of many branches, resembling somewhat the clover. It is planted and cared for much like peas or beans and is sometimes called earth or ground nut on account of its vines running along on the ground. Two years ago any one recommending peanuts for dyspepsia would have been geered at, and rightly, too, for it is of more recent date that the medicinal qualities of the nut were discovered. Until this discovery these qualities were dominated by an oil in which the peanut is rich. This oil is non-drying and valuable as a lubricant. It is also used extensively as an adulterant for olive oil.

Frequent experiments discovered that the peanut was also rich in nutriment, and that this food when **peptonized** acted like magic in dispelling heartburn, curing insomnia, and putting the digestive apparatus in working order. All well-informed medical men know that science has succeeded in isolating so pure a pepsin that it will digest 25,000 times its own weight in albumen. Pepsin is one of the albuminoids or nitrogenous substances, and it has the power of converting proteids into peptones. When the process of digestion does not furnish sufficient pepsin to accomplish complete assimilation of the food dyspepsia begins to entrench itself in the system. Then have a care, for, if its inroads are not blocked and the disease routed, years of intense suffering are sure to follow.

Everybody likes peanuts. Ever since the first "Young America" laughed at the antics of the circus clown peanuts have been popular. Children love to eat them on the sly "when the teacher isn't looking," while older persons have been known to crack them quietly in their pockets and sneak the palatable kernels into their mouths at the theater. Even the confirmed dyspeptic loves them, but is afraid. Who, it may be asked, ever expected to hear of peanuts being used as a remedy for **dyspepsia**, for **Bright's Disease**, for **Diabetes**, for **Insomnia** and for corpulency?

Germany claims the credit of having discovered the possibilities of the peanut, and an eminent chemist in our employ has demonstrated that **"pepsin-salted"** peanuts lose none of the peanut flavor in the preparation. Our process of preparing them is such that the oil is neutralized while the flavor and the medicinal properties of the nut are retained. This makes a **food-medicine** that is certain to be the delight of everybody.

In connection with medicinal qualities of **pepsin-salted** peanuts it might be interesting as well as instructive to know that peanuts outrank, by a large percentage, such nutritive foods as cheese, peas, beef, rice, potatoes, milk, rye flour, and veal. Already the Germans are making flour and butter from the peanut, and the success of the venture has been such that peanut planters everywhere are preparing to double their usual crops.

We are the first in the United States to prepare **pepsin-salted** peanuts for the market, and we hope to merit success solely from the quality of the goods which we shall dispose of through our agents at 10c. per package.

Experiments have proved that our pepsin-salted peanuts will cure heartburn and relieve all the other pangs of chronic dyspepsia.

Sufferers from the effects of Bright's Disease and other kidney troubles have noted marked progress after treatment.

Corpulency disappears because the **pepsin-salted** peanuts digests and makes other food digest.

Half a handful eaten one hour before retiring will induce sleep and a continuation of **pepsin-salted** peanuts rightly will cure insomnia.

Notice COMFORT's special offer in advertisement on another page of "Two thousand packages shelled peanuts sent free," write at once for a sample package as per their offer.

CHICKENS! IMPORTED and DOMESTIC
45 varieties. Best strains. Large 96 page illustrated catalogue of Chickens, Incubators and Brooders, and a 48 page Poultry book, both for only 15c. Address, C. C. SHOEMAKER, Box 506, FREEPORT, ILLS.

$2.50 TAN COVERT COAT



A STYLISH SPRING, SUMMER and FALL OVERCOAT AND A WATERPROOF RAINCOAT in one. SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad out and send to us, state your Height and Weight, state number inches around body at Breast taken over coat, close up under arms and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D. subject to examination. Examine and try it on at your nearest express office, and if found exactly as represented, the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00 pay the express agent $2.50 and express charges. Our Special Offer Price, $2.50
THIS HANDSOME COAT is made from a genuine HAINSEL plain medium TAN COVERT ENGLISH WATERPROOF CLOTH, lined with a fancy plaid Hainsel waterproof lining, vulcanized by the celebrated Selkirk process, with the best English rubber compound to make it waterproof. IT IS A PERFECT, HANDSOME WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH COAT, and cut short and made single breasted, fly front, makes a very stylish overcoat for Spring, Summer and Fall. While lined and vulcanized for a waterproof Mackintosh, worn as an overcoat, no one can tell it from the most stylish $20.00 Spring Overcoat. Fine Tailor Made, latest style for 1899, fly front, correct overcoat length, velvet collar, sanitary arm fittings. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY. For Free Cloth Samples of everything in men's tailoring, SUITS $5.50 AND UP. WRITE FOR FREE BOOK No. 5E. (This firm is thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL.

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Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "It reduced my weight 21 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc.
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FITS EPILEPSY. Its *only* sure treatment. I insure an entire and rapid cure, to stay cured for life! I ask no fee. DR. KRUSE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

MAGIC DIP NEEDLE for locating Gold and Silver Ore, Lost or Hidden Treasures. Circulars and testimonials free.
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WANTED Man or lady to travel and appoint agents. Estab. firm. $50 per month and expenses to start.
P. W. ZIEGLER & CO., 232 Locust St., Phila.

The Asbestos Pipe CANNOT be told from cigar, holds an ordinary pipe full tobacco and will last for years. Sample by mail with catalog to agents 10c. Stamps taken. Sells like hot cakes. Murphy Bros. Stamford Conn.

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We will give a beautiful Solid Gold finished ring warranted to any person who will sell 10 of our beautiful enameled stick Pins at 10c. each. Send name and address and we will mail pins postpaid. You sell them and remit $1 and we will mail the ring. CLARK & CO., 100 Vinton St., Providence, R. I.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE. If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance.
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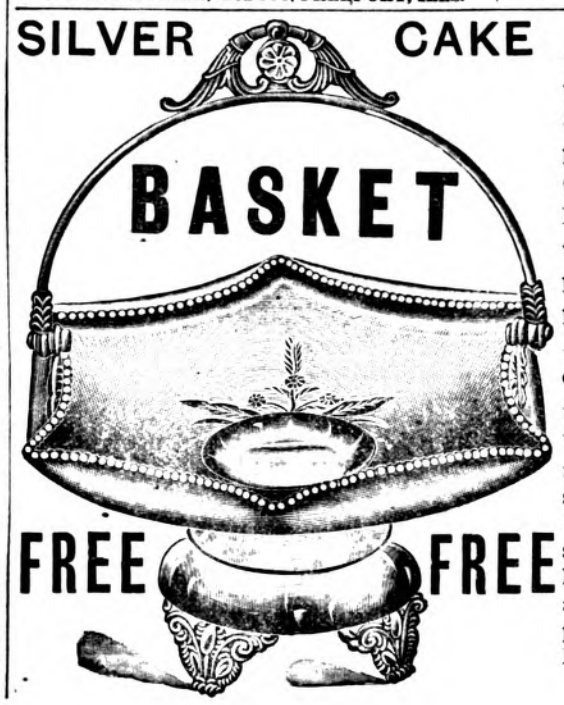
A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory.
Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

SILVER CAKE BASKET FREE FREE



We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have [illegible] of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



HERE are many helpful hints in the various publications referring to the house, and it seems as though many of our readers might be glad to see a brief list, occasionally, in this department, of general information regarding matters that come into the daily life of every housekeeper. With this in view we have made a collection, and will give as many hints as possible in the next two or three editions.

For instance:

To remove a rusty screw, first heat the screw-driver and then apply to the screw, when it will easily turn.

To make the lamps burn brightly, soak the wicks in vinegar before using, and put a pinch of salt into the oil as well. Every part of the burner should be well washed and brushed as often as once a week.

To make a good black dye, mix together solutions of acetate of lead and sulphate of iron; filter, and then boil the article to be dyed in the mixture. Rinse well in water and then boil in water with chips of logwood; rinse again and hang out to dry, and the garment will be a good black.

A medical journal gives the following recipe for preventing excessive perspiration of the hands: Wash two or three times each day in tepid water in which club moss has been standing; change the moss every morning.

To clean brass trays, try lemon juice; if unavailing, mix a little salt with it, being careful not to scratch the tray with the salt.

For falling hair use castor oil and bay rum in equal proportions. It should be well rubbed into the roots of the hair with the tips of the fingers.

If you are troubled with an oily skin, try putting half a lemon into the water jug; the water and lemon should be changed every two or three days. Dry the face thoroughly after using this wash.

To avoid the breakage of lamp chimneys and glass globes, try tempering them when new. Put them in a large pan and cover with cold water. Set the pan on the range until the water boils, and then remove it from the fire and leave the globes in the water until it is perfectly cold.

Before putting away furs for the summer they should be very carefully examined and all dust and dirt removed from them by vigorous beating and brushing. To clean fur, rub it carefully against the grain, and when it has been thoroughly lifted and reversed, dip a piece of flannel into flour and rub lightly any spots that may look soiled. Shake well and rub with a piece of dry flannel. Sable and chinchilla may be cleaned with hot bran; rub the bran into the fur and leave for a few minutes and then shake off the bran.

To clean bed-ticking, first carefully remove the feathers and then shake the cases so that all the down will be removed. Rinse in cold water in which has been dissolved a teaspoonful of permanganate of potash. When this is thoroughly rubbed in, wring and dry the cases, and rub the inside with a piece of beeswax. This is to prevent the disagreeable working through of the feathers when the cases are again filled.

Borax is the housekeeper's best friend. Its uses are many and great. It is an excellent preservative for milk, meat, butter and all animal foods. It softens and purifies water for household purposes; it may be used in the place of soda in washing linen; it cleans and purifies sponges and removes unpleasant odors



FOR A CARD PARTY.

from the kitchen sink. It gives a luster to glass and silver when washed in it, and cleans marble. For a head wash it is excellent, removing dandruff. Above all, it is inexpensive.

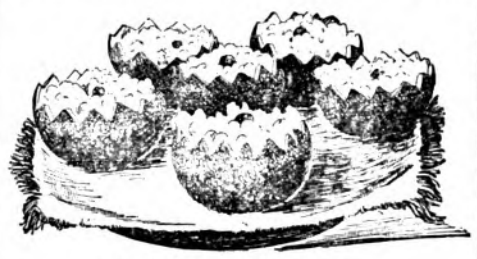
To revive cut flowers, put the stems into very hot water and leave until water is cold. Then cut the ends of the stems off and slit up the stalks of the flowers and place in cold water.

Now for a few recipes.

We give an illustration of cake, cut and decorated to imitate playing cards. These are especially appropriate for refreshment at a card party. For making, use a recipe for a good, plain, fine-grained cake, and bake in shallow pans, so when cut the pieces will be very thin. Cut in the shape of cards and frost with white frosting after cutting; then use candied cherries to show the spots on the cards; diamonds and hearts may be cut from the cherries with a knife, or the cherries may be used whole and simply stuck on, to imitate the ace, three or six spot, as desired. A cookie mixture will be used instead of cake, and then the cards may be exceedingly thin. The vanilla wafer recipe given last month is especially adaptable for this.

For a dessert, nothing is more attractive and at the same time palatable than oranges, served French style.

Select oranges having fine skins. Cut away one-third from the end of each orange and with a spoon remove all the pulp. Use only the



ORANGES, FRENCH STYLE.

larger parts, cutting the edges in small points. Put the skins in cold water until ready to serve. Press the juice from the pulp, using a vegetable press or ricer. There should be, to six oranges, a pint of juice. Add to this quantity the juice of two lemons and a cup of sugar. Have ready half a box of gelantine soaked in a cup of cold water and dissolved in a half cup of boiling water. Strain the gelatine into the juice, stir until the sugar is dissolved, then set away to chill. When ready to serve arrange the skins on a dish, collectively, or arrange on separate plates to be served individually; fill with the jelly cut in cubes, and decorate with whipped cream and candied cherries.

German Finishing Schools.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN South Germany are finishing schools for young ladies, which, while they are most beneficial and useful in their work, differ widely from the so-called finishing schools of this country. Indeed, they are intended to supplement the schools which, with us, are supposed to cap the climax of a society girl's education; for, in order to be eligible to one of these German schools, a girl must be able to pass a satisfactory examination in arithmetic and in English and German grammar, and must speak and write her own language correctly. She comes to this school mainly to learn housekeeping, for a German girl would take shame to herself were she to enter the life of a married woman without clearly understanding its duties and responsibilities, and possessing a practical knowledge of housekeeping in all its branches.

These schools generally number from ten to twenty boarders, each of whom has a separate bedroom. Every morning after breakfast each girl is expected to make her own bed and dust and arrange her room. Once or twice a month



she is obliged to alter the arrangement of the furniture that she may know how to arrange rooms. Every week she is called upon to take her dresses from the closets where they hang, and to pack them in a trunk together with everything else which she might need for a long visit away from home. The mistress of the school inspects her work, when finished, and points out ways in which it might be improved.

Very few servants are kept in these schools, but these few hold the office of teachers of the girl pupils rather than that of servants, and for this reason are selected with especial care. At the commencement of a term the girls are informed by the mistress that four of them are required each week to take absolute care of the house. These four must rise early in the morning, and see to the preparation of the breakfast. After breakfast they make their beds and tidy their rooms as usual, and then go around the house to see that others have done the morning work properly. The remainder of the forenoon is spent by them in preparing the midday dinner for the family. The menu for this has already been given them by the mistress, and their work in the kitchen is supervised by the cook, who oversees, directs, advises, and prevents waste.



These four girls take turns, during their week of service, in sitting at the head of the table, carving the meats, fowls, etc., serving soup, sweets, tea and coffee, or whatever needs the attention of the mistress of the house. After dinner, those on duty have, after a short rest, to arrange the afternoon tea in the drawing-room, serve it to their mates and to any callers who may come in. In the evening the four girls still act as hostesses, entertain callers, oversee and direct any music or recreation which serves as the evening's amusement, and finish their day's work by preparing supper. After all is over and the rest of the family have retired to their bedrooms, these girls visit the kitchen to see that it is in perfect order and suitably arranged for the night, look to the locks of doors and windows in all the unoccupied rooms of the house, and to the fastenings of all the outer doors, before they are allowed to consider the work of the day as finished and to seek their own couches.

The other girls of the family, who are not during this week serving as housekeepers, are taught sewing and the making and repairing of their own garments. In the morning they have their studies, and in the afternoon they go for walks. There are generally many visitors at such a school, and in the evening the girls give dances which they get up and manage themselves, of course under the supervision of the mistress. They hire the music, draw up the programmes, see to the arrangement of the rooms, etc.

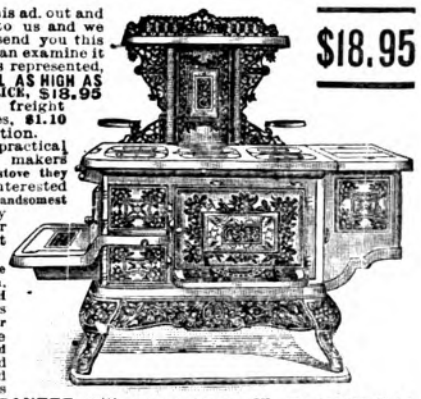
The value of the training given to girls by such a school cannot be overestimated. They leave it at the end of their course entirely competent to take charge of a house; they are good cooks, good managers, good hostesses, and are equal to any household emergency that may arise.

How Some of Our Readers Can Make Money.

Last month I cleared, after paying all expenses, $355.85; the month previous $260 and have at same time attended to other duties. I believe any energetic person can do equally as well, as I have had very little experience. The Dish Washer is just lovely, and every family wants one, which makes selling very easy. I do no canvassing. People hear about the Dish washer, and come or send for one. It is strange that a good, cheap washer has never before been put on the market. The Iron City Dish Washer fills this bill. With it you can wash and dry the dishes for a family of ten in two minutes without wetting the hands. As soon as people see the washer work they want one. You can make more money and make it quicker than with any other household article on the market. I feel convinced that any lady or gentleman can make from $10 to $14 per day around home. My sister and brother have started in the business and are doing splendid. You can get full particulars by addressing the Iron City Dish Washer Company, 61 Station A., Pittsburg, Pa. They help you get started, then you can make money awfully fast.

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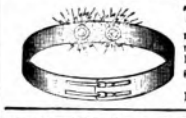
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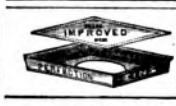


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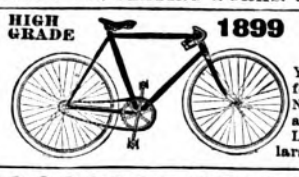
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There is a whole wealth of human experience with its sadness and its gladness, in the thought of the one who said: "An April day of smiles and tears—my heart is young again."

He who is only an "April Fool" is wise beyond the limit of human comprehension. Most of us find that we must give a reluctant assent to the old childish doggerel: "April Fool is past and I'm the biggest fool at last."

It is a great pleasure to learn that there is one part of the social world where women are at a premium. The official society of the capital finds itself "long" on men, "short" on women. At a recent diplomatic dinner twenty-five men had to be bidden to the feast on account of their official place, and the like restrictions made it possible to invite but thirteen women. The embassies that have no resident women are those of Germany, France and Italy. The legations that are womanless are those of Holland, Sweden and Norway, Gautemala, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, Peru, Ecuador, Turkey, Japan and Nicaragua.

We have long believed that America had of necessity some elements of the romance of history in its Indian tribes. Fanciful antiquarians have tried to trace in them the lost tribes of Israel and their customs have never failed to awaken interest. The rolling eloquence of Indian chiefs has again and again been translated into English for the admiration of many a would-be rhetorician among their white brethren. We have deplored the fact that our states, rivers and mountains do not more frequently reproduce the quaint, beautiful and significant Indian names. Their poetical meaning has accustomed us to expect a "Minnehaha, Laughing Water" turn to all Indian cognomens. This idea has been freely indulged in by a resident of cultured Boston. This estimable if romantic lady conceived the idea that it would be a gracious and poetical act to name her household pets after some representatives of the leading Indian tribes. Full of this thought and characteristic Boston accuracy she wrote to the agent of the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory for half a dozen Indian names. They came: Dennis P. O'Flannagan, John W. Brown, Silas Smith, J. I. Scott, Samuel S. Benton, Asa P. Longfellow, all prominent Indians of the region! After that who doubts our ability to civilize the Filipinos?

The recent strong tendency to insist that women shall be trained in "domestic sciences" as a part of their college curriculum is an evident attempt to correlate the new and the old ideas of woman's sphere. The Minneapolis College of Agriculture has enlarged upon this idea and intends to make the scientific study of farming a part of the training of its girl students. With this purpose fifty young women are entering upon a course of study particularly designed to render farm life attractive. It is believed that the boys can be kept upon the farm if they find girls who are trained to become farmers' wives. The entire work of the school is bent to the idea of making a farm home the most attractive and interesting place in the world. Plant and animal life are studied and their foundations, botany and physiology. Chemistry as related to soil, fertilization and culture and technical instruction in dairying, poultry, breeding and feeding of animals, veterinary science, field agriculture, fruit culture, and forestry form part of the course. The pupils are taught in their drawing class to design and plan farm buildings. The training of girls in this work is an innovation and the result will be watched with great interest in many different classes. The agricultural states, the people interested in new occupations for women, the sociologist and the advocates of the higher education of women, all find a special interest in this new development of the woman question.

New York State's great university, Cornell, is directing some of its great influence to the problems of country life. The schoolhouse is always a center of interest in every district but the general appearance of the house and grounds would hardly indicate this. Bare and uninviting, often unpainted, or painted in such glowing colors that the eye is wearied, perched upon some barren hill or some swamp "good for nothing but a school site," the average country schoolhouse is repellant instead of inviting. Cornell will supply leaflets containing plans for a simple but artistic school building, whose cost does not exceed that of the oblong boxes that many such buildings are. Pictures, flowers, trees and shrubbery are a powerful influence upon children. The child who receives this esthetic training will surround his own home with these elevating influences. Arbor Day has done much for the schools but much of the effort is misdirected and so fails of results. The trees are usually scattered all over the place with no eye for effect and with the result of destroying the playground space that every school should have. Fortunately many of the trees die. Trees should be planted in groups and shrubbery should help to make of the school grounds a picture. Cornell issues a circular free to teachers which contains "Hints on Rural School Grounds." The kinds of trees, shrubs, etc., best suited to particular soils are discussed, plans for grouping, hints on plants and their care. Any school district can make its schoolhouse the most attractive spot in the place rather than the least attractive as it often is. A neighborhood "bee" can change the whole look of the place in one day. April is the best month to begin such work and the circular named will furnish a guide to make the effort effective. Beautify the place where your child spends most of his day.

The system of reform by colonization is an old one and one that with but few exceptions has proven a failure. Even the strongest motive, the religious one, has not succeeded in making the herding together of those of one faith a success. Communities like the Shakers, the Economists, the Oneida community and many similar ones have resulted ultimately in failure. When the problem has been worked out with the criminal, or the defective, or the incompetent types of humanity the failure to make a success of colonies has been immediate and final. Georgia began its life as a philanthropic enterprise, an endeavor to give a new start in life to the unfortunate inmates of the debtor's prisons of England. The camp was under military rule but the outcome was not a success. It was only after people who seek new homes for the usual motives came into Georgia that the colony prospered. In view of the verdict of the history of such colonies the attempt of the Salvation Army to establish colonies will be watched with interest. There is an earnest devotion and single heartedness in the work of that grand organization that has many times achieved the seemingly impossible. It has less than two hundred persons in its colonies which are located one at Fort Amity, Colorado; one at Fort Pomie, California, and one at Fort Herrick, near Cleveland. The cost of the experiment the first year has been $45,000 and with $50,000 more it is believed the colonies can be continued another year. If success is possible the Salvation Army can achieve it. Only those familiar with the slums of great cities have any just comprehension of the powerful influence for good exerted by this army of earnest workers.

There is a certain portion of historical information that forms the stock in trade of every well conducted person's mind. George Washington's hatchet and William Tell's apple and "The Old Guard dies but never surrenders," form a part of this array. The fierce light of modern historical investigation when turned upon many of these hoary idols of antiquity shows them to be less than clay—in fact shows that they have no existence save in the minds of their worshipers. The traditions surrounding the old French prison, the Bastile, have filled a generation with nameless horror. The fall of the Bastile was one of the great events in that greatest of all events—the French Revolution. Now there arises a writer of history, Funck-Brentano, and tells us that the horrors of the Bastile had no real existence, in fact that this noted place was the most luxurious form of a prison that ever existed. Its inmates lived in luxurious idleness and were not even closely confined. Its horrors lay in the fact that people were sent here without trial. One man eats the dinner that is brought to him and considers it good, although simple. Later, when his own luxurious fare comes, he finds to his astonishment that he has eaten the dinner intended for his servant. Some prisoners had their libraries at their disposal and held receptions which their gay Paris friends attended. An indemnity was given in some cases where it had been proven that the imprisonment had been unjust. Louis XVI. intended to pull the prison down leaving but one tower standing, upon which was to be erected his statue gazing at the prison ruins. What becomes of our mental picture of the wild Paris mob freeing the victims of kingly injustice and razing to the ground the torture house of kings? It was in fact the symbol of oppression that they destroyed the Bastile and not the actual thing. But few prisoners were found in the Bastile and but one of these was a political prisoner. What a readjustment of our historical data this calls for! Another idol shattered—no Bastile of horror and oppression but an empty prison which was the mildest in Paris. What a vast and varied amount of misinformation we acquire in the name of history.

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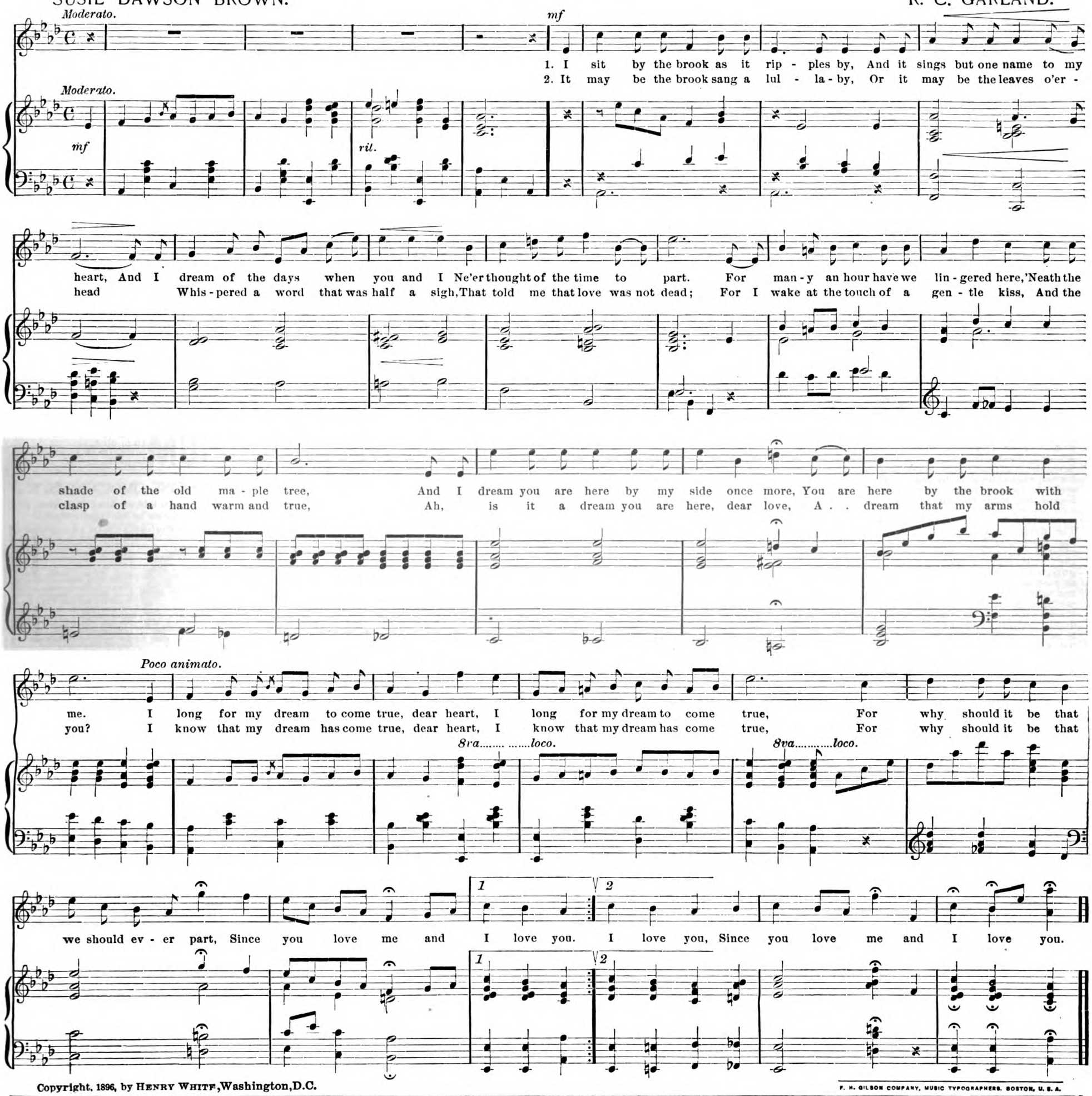
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I LONG FOR MY DREAM TO COME TRUE.

(HIGH VOICE.)

SUSIE DAWSON BROWN. R. C. GARLAND.



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EARLY MUSIC IN AMERICA.

Some of the Later and More Progressive Steps in the Art.

The first steps in American Music may be traced back to the English Colonies of New England. Although the Cavaliers settled Virginia years before the Pilgrims reached Plymouth in the *Mayflower* and operatic concerts at a later date were given in Richmond, Baltimore and Charleston through the patronage of the wealthy Southerners, who sent to England for the singers, yet it is a very curious historical fact that the first real earnest interest in musical matters in this country was taken by Psalm-singing Puritans.

From barbarously sung simple psalmody there arose the present musical culture in the United States, which exists with sufficient degree and strength to elicit the admiration of every art-lover and really justifies the hope and belief that at no very future date there will be recognized a distinctive and creative American School of Music.

During the civil wars in England the Puritans, rigid in their beliefs, took delight in destroying organs, music books and choirs and even in driving musicians from the galleries. At the same time they sang psalms by the whole congregation in church. Here in New England about 1720, singing societies were everywhere established for the cultivation and improvement of church music, which gradually diffused musical knowledge and cultivated love for music itself. The Clergy advocated it as harmless recreation, and in 1712 Rev. John Tufts produced the first musical text book of America: "A Very Plain and Easy Instruction in the Art of Singing Psalm Tunes. With a collection of Tunes in three Parts."

We can scarcely imagine what would have been the surprise of these early Puritans, painfully laboring over the rude notes and printing of this early work, to have looked forward and seen the rapid strides that would be made by the art in this country during the next three centuries. Instruments, books, music and all have made a progress wonderful to contemplate. But nothing has done so much to elevate the general taste for good music as the recent production of the best music at the lowest possible price; a price that a few years ago would have been looked on as incredible.

In another column of COMFORT appears our wonderful music offer. It is exactly the same music in shape, looks, print and paper, as you are accustomed to pay from fifty cents to a dollar for at all stores, and every piece is a selected gem in its own order. No person who cares for music or who has friends caring for it should neglect to try this offer once; after that you will have it no other way for you will be satisfied with our great popular arrangement.

The list in the offer published this month contains a lot of brand-new pieces by popular authors and we would call particular attention to Nos. 193, 194, 196, 197, 198, 201, 202, 203 and 204, all of which will be found leaders in their own lines. All of them are fresh and deserving of particular mention, but this month's list is so long that we do not feel competent to particularize the various beauties, for our space is limited.

It is just possible that some reader has not tried the merits of this grand offer and may think there is some catch or evasion. We will return your money if you find we misrepresent or exaggerate this in any particular. We *know* you will like it. "I received the music and it is perfectly satisfactory. I think it is the best I ever saw and I don't see why it is not just as good as the sheet music that I have to pay 50c. and 60c. for," writes Miss Lottie V. Codding, Mansfield, Mass. "Was more than satisfied. Was surprised at the excellent quality," says W. O. Harden, Seattle, Wash.

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SAYINGS OF CHILDREN.

A little maiden of five recently succeeded in causing a decided sensation at the dinner table. Several guests were present, and when all had been served with soup the little one was asked if she would have some. To the dismay of her mother and the amusement of the guests she replied: "No I thank you; I saw it made—that was quite enough for me."

The wife of one of Harvard's professors was to give a reception, not long ago, and told her young son that he must stay in another part of the house, which very much displeased the little fellow. When it was time for the guests to arrive, nobody appeared. On looking from the window the would-be hostess saw several carriages drive up to the door, hesitate and then drive away again. After this had been repeated several times she went to the door and discovered that her hopeful son had tied a piece of crepe on the door knob, and the guests, supposing a death had suddenly occurred in the house, drove away again.

When asked what he intended to be when he grew up, Willie said: "If I can't have a blue baker's cart with a spotted dog to run under it, I would like to be either a tramp or a minister."

Rob always walked on the shady side of the street, because, he said, referring to his shadow, "I don't want that thing following me all around."

Little Helen was eating her dessert of sliced peaches, and finding she was getting short of cream she said: "Papa, I want some more cream." "Not on your life" said Pa. "No, on my peaches," said the bright one.

Jack, having heard some one use the expression "shoot him on the spot," was asked what he would do if he saw a man trample on "Old Glory." He promptly said, "I would shoot the spot on him."

Lowell, aged four, was always given a penny when he started for Sunday School, which he was supposed to put in the contribution box. On his way to the church he passed an apothecary shop and one day the clerk told his father that his boy came in regularly on Sunday and bought a stick of candy. The clerk was told not to sell him any more candy on Sunday, and Lowell was told nothing about it. The following Sunday Lowell put in his appearance as usual, on his way to church, and the clerk said, "I can't sell you any candy on Sunday." Looking very much disappointed, but saying nothing, Lowell disappeared. In a few minutes the door of the drug store opened enough to admit a tiny fist in which was a big stick of candy, and through the crack came a triumphant voice saying, "There are others!"

Four-year-old Grant complained of not feeling well, and his father suggested that he might have chicken-pox, then prevalent. Early the next morning Grant came down stairs looking very serious, and said: "I guess you was right about the chicken-pox, pa; I found a feather in the bed."

Four-year-old Roscoe of Bangor, had all his life been an unusually good boy, so much so that his mother had never been obliged to whip him; but the time came when the rod had to be applied, and just before the application he asked his mother if he might step into the next room and pray. Of course he was allowed to do this, and the door being ajar his mother heard him pray, as he knelt at the bed: "O God, if you're *ever* going to help a little boy, help him now!"

Light Upon the Dark Continent.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AFRICA no longer means to the civilized world simply "negroes," "Egpyt" or the "Sahara." It is no longer a place of mystery and myth but of good, solid, practical reality. Africa is of use to commerce, so Africa comes to be known as it is and not as poets and novelists picture it. Commerce is ever an educator.

Some things we would do well to remember in regard to the physical features of Africa. First, the equator crosses Africa about half way from North to South and it is also crossed by the two tropics, so that nearly all the continent is in the torrid regions. This would make Africa almost uninhabitable for white men were it not that a large part of this region is so high above the sea that it has a temperate climate. In fact, nearly all of the continent is a great highland, with a low, unhealthy coastal plain, only a few miles wide, along the seacoast.

Of all the rivers of the earth the Nile has probably been most talked of and written about. Every one knows that it overflows its banks every year, but how many know why? Rising four thousand miles from its mouth, far up on the highest part of the plateau, in the lake region of Central Africa, it receives the waters from Lake Albert, Lake Albert Edward and Victoria Nyanza (the largest lake in Africa). Beside this, hundreds of small streams from the high ranges of Abyssinia pour their torrents into the Nile during the rainy season, and the water flows over the low bank in Egypt, but with the approach of the dry season the small streams dwindle away and dry up, and the Nile becomes a small muddy river. The deeply cut bed of the Upper Nile shows how the river has worn away the rock and secured the material which it spreads out on the fertile plain along its lower banks. For hundreds of miles it runs through the desert skirted on either side with a fringe of green a few miles wide. When the Nile is flooded it is said to pour into the Mediterranean nearly five times as much water as when the flood has gone down. About five hundred miles from the sea is the first of the great cataracts and here navigation for large steamers stops. Caravans across the desert take up the trade from here, and the old civilization comes in contact with the new.

The great interest of Egypt is not its cotton, its rice or its sugar, but the grand monuments of ancient civilization, the Pyramids and Sphinxes and wonderful temples, many of them buried deep in the desert sand, which for centuries has blown over that region as it blows to-day. England has good reason for wishing to hold Egypt within her grasp. The control of the Suez Canal makes it possible to shorten the journey from England to India by many hundred miles. Furthermore, it is important that she should hold the Lake Region and open to trade the rich lands of the highland. For this puprose England, with her usual insistence upon improvement, is at present engaged in building a railroad which shall connect Victoria Nyanza with the Indian Ocean.

Along the Nile, England has a "sphere of influence" which has always been undisputed by European nations. It is the dream of all British statesmen to extend this "sphere of influence" through Central Africa until it reaches the English colonies at the south. "From Cairo to Cape Town" is the phrase that pleases their ears. In the the autumn of '98 all the world was roused by the news of the victory of Sir Herbert Kitchener over the Dervishes at Omdurman, opposite Khartoum. It was at the hands of these religious zealots that Gordon lost his life at Khartoum, and now he was avenged. With the occupation of the city of Khartoum by Kitchener the disputed territory of the Upper Nile was in the hands of the English and Egyptians. Hard upon this



victory came the tidings that a French force under Major Marchand had appeared at Fashoda, a small town on the Nile several hundred miles to the south. This was an intrusion which could not be tolerated, for the French government had been duly warned that any appearance of French troops in the Nile valley would be considered an unfriendly act. General Kitchener immediately marched a portion of his army to Fashoda and requested the removal of Marchand's command from Egyptian and therefore British territory. For sometime relations between the two governments were somewhat strained, but in the end his government ordered Major Marchand to retreat along the Niger, over which the "sphere of influence" of the French extends, and from which direction the troops of France had come to try the mettle of England. Although the affair is not yet settled, the civilized world is inclined to sympathize with the English view of the case and to look to the sturdy Briton as the civilizer of Central Africa.

The Desert of Sahara is a byword for desolation. One's thought of it is a vast, level, sandy plain with here and there a little bunch of palm trees and a well—the ideal oasis. How different is the reality. Less than half is a sandy waste. In the Eastern part are high, stony table-lands, some of them five thousand feet above sea level, and lofty peaks, snow-capped a part of the year. When this snow melts small streams of water run down the mountains nourishing the date trees in the valleys and even making possible the raising of a little wheat. The western part of the desert is lower and more sandy, and the sand is blown into drifts called dunes, sometimes six hundred feet high. Here the simoon, or sand storm rages, blowing the dry sand in clouds which darken the sun and bring death to men and camels. An oasis is often much more than the fertile "spot" in the desert, for it sometimes covers miles of inhabitable land and has good-sized towns upon it. At one time it was thought that the Sahara might be flooded from the Atlantic Ocean or Mediterranean Sea, making an inland sea, which would be more easily used than the desert, but it is now known that only a small portion is below the surface of the sea.

South of the Sahara and bordering upon it is the much talked of Soudan, reaching from the Atlantic to the Nile and Khartoum. It consists of fertile plains and forest lands and contains within its borders Lake Tsad. This is a shallow inland sea, which, in the rainy season, becomes larger than Lake Superior, but in the dry season shrinks to one-fourth its size, leaving thousands of square miles of swamps and marshes along its banks. It is in this region that the negroes are found in their native state. They are not savages but are well advanced in the knowledge of agriculture and simple manufacture, and they carry on a large trade with the towns about Lake Tsad where caravans meet. The ivory from the tusks of elephants is their chief source of wealth. This wealth in the past was the curse of the people, for it was to bear these huge tusks that they were driven through the forest by the white man and sold as slaves when they reached the coast.

About in the center of Africa is the Kongo



AN ARAB ENCAMPMENT.

River. It is said to drain a larger area than any other river in the world except the Amazon of South America. Its basin is almost entirely on the plateau of Central Africa, half a mile above sea level. Much of this basin was probably, in former times, a great inland sea several times as large as the Caspian Sea in Europe. Finding an outlet to the ocean it wore a deep gorge in the mountains, and left upon the highland the fertile plain which is now covered with dense forests. The river sweeps down from the high peaks and ranges of Eastern Africa, foaming over the cataracts at Stanley Falls, and flowing as a navagable stream for a thousand miles across the plateau when it bursts in a chain of grand cataracts over the plateau edge and through the gorge of Yellala. Vessels of fair size enter the river from the sea but they can go but a few hundred miles when they are stopped by the falls and rapids. Goods must then be transported overland to a point above the falls where other steamers ply the river for hundreds of miles into the interior. This is the region of large, fierce animals—the chimpanzee, gorilla, crocodile, elephant and rhinoceros.

South of the Kongo, and flowing into the Indian Ocean, is the Zambezi River. Its basin is thickly forested at the north, merging into the Desert of Kalahari on the south. Like the Kongo it flows through the plateau and then falls to the coasted plain in a series of falls of great beauty and grandeur. The Kalahari desert is known chiefly as the home of the Bushmen, a tribe of negroes, very small of stature and living almost entirely by hunting.

The southern portion of Africa, known as Cape Colony, is at the end of the great African plateau. In fact, Table Mountain near Cape Town may be said to be the southern extremity of the highland. Here we find the modern civilization of Europe, its railroads, telegraphic lines and newspapers. Perhaps the most interesting industry of this region, and certainly the most important to the inhabitants, is the diamond mining. At Kimberly is the richest diamond mine in the world and the value of the diamonds is greater than all the other exports of Cape Colony.

Thus we find in Africa the newest and the oldest civilizations, the savage and the city-bred exquisite, high mountains, snow covered, descending to malaria-haunted plains. It is a land of fair prospects with a history behind it. America must look to her laurels to keep pace with Africa in the progress of the world.

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SOLID QUARTER SAWED OAK DROP DESK CABINET, PIANO POLISHED. One illustration shows machine closed, (head dropping from sight) to be used as a center table, stand or desk; the other open with full length table and head in place for sewing. Four fancy drawers, latest 1899 skeleton frame, carved, paneled, embossed and decorated cabinet finish, finest nickel drawer pulls' rests on 4 casters, ball bearing adjustable treadle genuine Smyth iron stand. Finest large High Arm head, positive four motion feed, self threading vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, head is handsomely decorated and ornamented and beautifully Nickel Trimmed. GUARANTEED the lightest running, most durable and nearest noiseless machine made. Every known attachment is furnished and our Free Instruction Book tells just how anyone can run it and do either plain or any kind of fancy work. A 20-YEAR BINDING GUARANTEE is sent with every machine. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING to see and examine this machine, compare it with those your storekeeper sells at $40.00 to $60.00, and then if convinced you are saving $25.00 to $40.00, pay your freight agent the $15.50. WE TO RETURN YOUR $15.50 if at any time within three months you say you are not satisfied. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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A big package of beautiful Silk Remnants, from 120 to 150 pieces, all carefully trimmed, prepared from a large accumulation of silks especially adapted for all kinds of fancy work. We give more than double any other offer, and the remnants are all large sizes, in most beautiful colors and designs. With each assortment is four skeins of the very best embroidery silk, assorted colors. Send 25 cents in silver or stamps to **Paris Silk Agency,** Box 3045, N. Y. City, N.Y.
This concern is reliable and the package of astonishing value.—*Editor.*

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It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.



Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surface. It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. **Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.**

A Bargain Offer to All. We want 20,000 agents to *sell these* cloths at fairs, campaign meetings, *on the street, from house to* house, everywhere. You can make $100 a *month* profit, young and old, both sexes. Sells like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 15 cents for agents' prices and a paid three month's trial subscription to our charming family paper. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will return money if not perfectly satisfied.
SUNSHINE, BOX 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

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Young men and women wanted for good positions. Address Fisk Telegraph School, Lebanon, Pa.

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WATCH On 10 days' trial before buying, Gold plated Stem Winder, with chain, $2.47. Terms free EUROPEAN WATCH CO. 145 Station L, New York

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IROQUOIS BICYCLES $16.75



400 of the famous Iroquois Model 3 will be sold at $16.75 each, just one-third their real value. Bicycles

IROQUOIS CYCLE WORKS FAILED because their wheels were too expensively built, and we have bought the entire plant at a forced sale at 20 cents on the dollar. With it we got 400 Model 3 Iroquois Bicycles, finished and complete. **Made to sell at $60.** To advertise our business we have concluded to sell these 400 at just what they stand us, and make the marvelous offer of a Model 3 IROQUOIS BICYCLE at $16.75 while they last. The wheels are strictly up-to-date, famous everywhere for beauty and good quality.

DESCRIPTON The Iroquois Model 3 is too well known to need a detailed description. Shelby 1¼ in. seamless tubing, improved two-piece crank, detachable sprockets, arch crown, barrel hubs and hanger, 2¼ in. drop, finest nickel and enamel; colors, black, maroon and coach green; Gents' frames, 22, 24 and 26 in., Ladies' 22 in.; best "Record," guaranteed tires and high-grade equipment throughout. **Our written guarantee** with every bicycle.

SEND ONE DOLLAR (or your express agent's guarantee for charges one way) state whether ladies' or gents', color and height of frame wanted, and we will ship C. O. D. for the balance ($15.75 and express charges), subject to examination and approval. If you don't find it the **most wonderful Bicycle Offer ever made,** send it back at our expense. **Order To-day** if you don't want to be disappointed. 50 cents discount for cash in full with order.

WE HAVE BICYCLES A complete line of '99 Models at $11.50 and up. Second-hand Wheels $3 to $10. We want RIDER AGENTS in every town to represent us. Hundreds earned their bicycle last year. This year we offer wheels and cash for work done for us; also **Free Use** of sample wheel to agents. Write for our liberal proposition. We are known everywhere as the greatest Exclusive Bicycle House in the world and are perfectly reliable; we refer to any bank or business house in Chicago, to any express company and to our customers everywhere. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago, Ill.
("The Mead Cycle Co., are absolutely reliable and Iroquois Bicycles at $16.75 are wonderful bargains, Editor")

AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.

There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new **All Wool Duster.** Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the daintiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. **Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle** firmly secured with **Bright Aluminum Ferrule,** that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell **A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL.** We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address



GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

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Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph** of **medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many writs as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. **FREE.** This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want a **box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.
THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.

The Regimental Bugler.

A True Story of the Civil War.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FREDERICKSBURG—Oh, the mortification of it! Hearts are sore over it yet. It was a famous—defeat. Some one blundered, and eleven hundred men lost their lives, to say nothing of twelve thousand wounded and missing.

We read that page of our country's history hastily. It dims the eye to linger over it. That was fine rifle-practice for the Southerners—the 13th of Dec.'62—more exciting than pigeon-shooting, when the range was a hillslope on which were moving hundreds of live, blue-coated targets. Under such circumstances one shoots quick and shoots often. They did. They improved their opportunities. Their fieldpieces helped them, too. A single volley took off a company at a time. The carnage was awful. Regiment after regiment reeled forward to wither away into nothingness amid the fog and smoke. If you go there now you will only find those Fredericksburg slopes a bit the greener for the warm blood of New England and Pennsylvania that freely watered them that day.

It was all a glorious blunder—a grand mistake, that makes us prouder of a country that could rear such valorous men as fought on either side of Marye's Heights in '62.

Those slaughtered brigades be it remembered were not composed of mere automata, but of live, loving, active men, to most of whom life was fair and sweet and hopeful. Many of them on going to the seat of war had left their hearts at home in the keeping of mother, or sister, or wife—by whom mayhap they were being prayed for just then when the death fiend was sporting and revelling on the Fredericksburg slopes. Poor fellows! they needed it.

One of these gallant blue coats, to whom life was dear and full of promise, was the regimental bugler of the—th New York Volunteers. His name was Schulz. He played the bugle divinely—had practiced the art for fifteen years in the French Army, and was possessed of a foreign musical reputation. He was simply an institution in the regiment. The men would follow anywhere when he played the "Advance"—even though it were across a muddy creek. Bugler Schulz was possessed of a sense of his importance as a source of melody and of inspiration. He "magnified his office."

At a certain juncture in the bloody assault at Fredericksburg, Gen. Zook the gallant officer who lost his life at Gettysburg, stood, calm and undisturbed, on a rise of ground commanding his brigade. Of course his trumpeter was near him—Schulz was always to be found where duty called, ready to repeat all orders on his bugle. The bullets were flying thick and fast. Life was held but cheaply in that particular place at that particular time. The considerate Zook bade his bugler slip behind a brick wall conveniently near, where he could as readily hear and far more comfortably execute all commands given by the brigadier. Schulz declared he was not the man to skulk—a post not too dangerous for his commanding officer was not too dangerous for him. A brave speech! the last he ever made. A few moments later he fell—his life a sacrifice—his honor unstained.

He was left there on the field, with hundreds of other unsung heroes. There was no one to pick up his fallen bugle and sound the "Retreat" over his grave. Indeed we don't know that he had so much as a grave, for awhile at least. You see so many needed burials all at once—a bloody battlefield like Fredericksburg calls for so many undertakers. The soft, mellow bugle notes were never sounded over Schulz's last resting-place, though we think he would have liked nothing better. His sole requiem was the rumble of gun-carriages to the rear.

But perhaps that night, when the field-pieces had ceased their booming, and all was still on the battlefield across the Rappahannock, while the sad stars looked pityingly down upon the upturned faces and distorted forms of the Union dead, some angelic visitor from a more peaceful world drawing near with a throng of invisible companions blew gently on a seraphic trumpet the sad, low notes of "Taps"—whereof mayhap the echoing tones are even yet softly reverberating along the calm, Celestial Hills.

* * * * * *

In a humble tenement house in New York, a mother was watching over the cradle where lay, consuming away with fever, her beloved little Hans. Care and anxiety had cut their tell-tale furrows deep in her strong German face. She was worn with watching—but evidently the end was near—soon there would be stillness, and dreadful reaction, when she could sleep on and take her rest! The doctor had told her he could do nothing more. The minister was there, to speak a word of comfort. He spoke out the thought lying in the mother's mind.

"Mrs. Schulz, it is time to telegraph your husband at the front—to call him home."

Tears were her only answer.

A little later a man in clerical dress was writing a despatch at the district telegraph office. The writing was blurred here and there as he handed it to the operator, for a few truant tears had fallen upon it. It read:

TO JOHN E. SCHULZ,
Chief Bugler, —th N. Y. V. Regt.
"The baby is dying. Come home at once if possible."
EMILY SCHULZ.

Chaplain Wright of the —th N. Y. was picking his way through the mud to the field station of the U. S. Military Telegraph, back of the Falmouth Heights whence Burnside had crossed into Fredericksburg with so much difficulty. Gen. Zook had ordered the Chaplain to report by telegraph the tragic death of her husband to the widow of Schulz the bugler. Entering the tent furnishing housing to the instruments of the field telegraph and to the redoubtable old sergeant presiding over them, Chaplain Wright handed in the despatch destined to convey so much sorrow to the lonely and grieving woman in the shabby New York tenement. The sergeant read it, then, without a word, matched it with a telegram which had just arrived from that distant city. He said nothing—for veteran of a hundred fights though he was, he could not command his voice sufficiently to speak. He knew and loved John Schulz. Moreover, he had a wife and boy of his own at home.

The Chaplain read the incoming despatch. It was that which urgently called upon the absent father to come home quickly that he might look once more upon the face of his little child.

"Such is life—such is war!" murmured the Chaplain, as he turned sadly away. "This is the 'valley of the shadow,' for man and for nation. This is death's hour—but life and Union shall be and reign beyond and after all!"

A Sketch of Provincetown.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AN INTERESTING and quaint little place is Provincetown, situated on the tip end of Cape Cod, where it nestles, almost buried in the sand dunes of which the Cape is composed. Years ago when the whale fisheries flourished, Provincetown, with New Bedford, was one of the richest towns in the state. Then with the discovery of petroleum, the whale fisheries died out. The big whalers lie rotting at their wharves, deserted and forgotten.

The fishermen of to-day do not go on long cruises, but are what are called "fresh fishermen." They start out early in the morning, haul up nets, and then start for Boston at full speed. The first boat in gets the best price for its cargo, and many exciting races are the result. Some of these boats can go in very fast time. Though rough in appearance, they are many of them "Burgess" models, and handled as they are by born sailors, they are capable of great things. All the fish caught here is not taken to Boston however. One or two of the great Boston fish merchants have packing houses here, and so a market is found at home for some fish. The process of packing and salting is very interesting. The cod is cleansed, split and dried, sun-cured and packed in wooden boxes. The day I visited the place a boatload of mackerel had just arrived. These were cleansed and split, then put into large kettles and boiled. Then they were packed in cans, the tops soldered on, and after they had cooled the labels were pasted on. In all these processes the most scrupulous cleanliness was observed.

Fishy reminiscences will forever linger in the memory of the visitor to Provincetown. The whole place smells of fish—every yard is filled with racks for drying fish—all the eating places feed you with fish—every man young or old that you see either has been or will be a fisherman. Even the solitary barber in town the day I arrived, shaved me (I judged by the feeling) as if he were skinning a fish.

In winter many of the fishermen join the crews at the life-saving stations that are so numerous along this terribly treacherous coast, and here they do yeoman's work in saving life and property.

But to tell about the town. The main street runs close to the water's edge, leaving just room for a line of fish-houses and wharves. On the other side are the houses. This street boasts of a plank walk, which, by the way has a history. After the Civil War, a certain sum of money was left in the state treasury to be divided among the different towns. Provincetown held a meeting to decide how to spend its share. Some proposed a plank walk, while others bitterly opposed it. Their fathers, they said, had never had one, why should they hold themselves better than their fathers? However, it was decided to build the walk, but so strong was the feeling that to this day some of the opponents of the walk have never set foot upon it. Walking up the street one sees strange sights. In one yard the skull of a whale is set up as an ornament, its jaws open and gaping at the heavens, and used now for the peaceful purpose of training nasturtiums. In another yard we find for an ornament a large carved figure which the owner, an old sea-captain assures us is the figure-head of an East India trader, picked up by himself floating in the Indian ocean. The work on the image is a fine bit of wood-carving, though it shows hard usage.

Before our tour of exploration is finished we meet the town crier, for this primitive method of publishing news is still preserved here. With a large bell in his hand he plods along, stopping every few rods to make his announcement.

Summer visitors are discovering Provincetown, and with their coming some of the quaint old features are disappearing, though enough remain to be a delight to lovers of the old town.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

Ladies.—Send to Mrs. E. Wales, Toledo, O., for free package of Clover Blossom. Cures all female diseases.



Are You Beautiful?

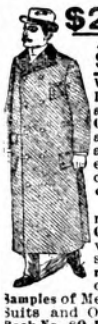
If not, read this and learn how to have a Lovely Complexion.

Everybody admires women and girls with clear, healthy, spotless complexions. They are attracted by pink cheeks and soft, velvety, delicate skin. Nothing destroys happiness and beauty like **Freckles, Pimples, Blackheads, Yellow or Muddy Skin, Moth, Wrinkles, Red Nose or Face, Tan, Eruptions, Discolorations or Blemishes** of any nature. They make both men and women homely and make them look old. All these afflictions are quickly and easily cured by **DR. BOTOT'S COMPLEXION WAFERS.** This is the most wonderful beautifier that was ever made. It is positively harmless to all, and contains not a single atom of **Lead, Bismuth or Arsenic.**

FOR GENTLEMEN AS WELL AS LADIES. These Wafers completely and permanently remove every eruption, blotch, discoloration and blemish on **both Ladies and Gentlemen.** They make the old look young. They beautify **Face, Neck, Shoulders and Arms.** They impart the delicate tints of girlhood and youth to the complexion. A woman cannot possibly be homely if she uses **DR. BOTOT'S COMPLEXION WAFERS.** She will be as fair as a rose, and wrinkles will not appear until she is far advanced in life. This may seem impossible to you, but it is the plain truth. The Wafers are not a cosmetic, remember, but a food for the skin. They make ladies of 40 look to be less than 30.

You Can Try Them Free. For a short time we will continue to send a **free trial package of DR. BOTOT'S WAFERS** to readers of this paper. You can thus satisfy yourself of their wonderful beautifying virtues without cost. Send your name and P. O. address at once, before this liberal offer is withdrawn, and enclose a stamp to pay postage. We mail the samples in **sealed, plain envelopes.** Address

CAPITAL DRUG CO., Box 523 Augusta, Maine.



$2.75 BOX RAIN COAT

A Regular $5.00 WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH for $2.75

Send no Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your **HEIGHT** and **WEIGHT**, state number of inches around body at Breast taken over vest under coat close up under arms, and we will send you this coat by express **C.O.D., subject to examination;** examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00, pay the express agent **our special offer price, $2.75,** and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is latest 1899 style, made from **heavy waterproof, tan color, genuine Davis Covert Cloth;** extra long, double breasted, Sager velvet collar, fancy plaid lining, waterproof sewed, strapped and cemented seams, suitable for either **rain or overcoat,** and guaranteed greatest value ever offered by us or any other house. **For Free Cloth** Samples of Men's Mackintoshes up to $5.00, and Made-to-Measure Suits and Overcoats at from $5.00 to $10.00, write for **Free Book No. 80 B.** Address

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)



$9.00 BUYS A HIGH GRADE VICTOR SEWING MACHINE Adapted to Light and Heavy Work. Reliable and Finely Finished; Guaranteed for 10 Years. Write for Catalogue. Attachments Free. 30 DAYS FREE TRIAL. WE PAY FREIGHT. Dept. E16, VICTOR MFG. CO., 295-297 Fifth Ave., Chicago.

SOME BARGAINS. Knee pants 14c; Men's pants 49c; Flannel shirts 15c; Boys' suits 89c; Smoking tobacco pkg. 3½c. Price list free. C. A. Willard Co., Chicago.

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$15.50 HIGH GRADE BICYCLES Shipped anywhere C. O. D., with privilege to examine. Latest styles for Men Women, Boys and Girls, well made and durable.



$60 "Oakwood" $24.50
$50 "Arlington" $22.00
No better wheels made. Others at $10, $12.50, $15.50, $17.50 & $19.50; all splendid value. Buy direct from manufacturers, thus saving dealers' large profits. Write today for special offer. Illustrated Catalogue Free. **CASH BUYERS' UNION, 162 W. Van Buren St., B-5, Chicago, Ills.**

A PRESENT FOR YOU



This magnificent 14 K. is given free for selling among your friends at 5c. and address and we will send on consignment. When sold send us the money and we will mail the handsome bracelet back if you cannot sell. the popular Curb Link, tive, both in pattern and **tely engraved and chased, and opens with a very pretty LITTLE KEY. If you prefer a STERLING SILVER LAID BRACELET please state so when ordering. The Sterling Silver Laid Bracelet is considered very stylish. We give every man or woman a Solid Gold-laid Bracelet which we will buy back for $5.00 if not as represented. It is solid gold pattern and unsurpassed for beauty and durability. Remember, we give it free for disposing of 20 cases of our Perfumery at 5 cents per case. W. S. SIMPSON, Box 180, New York.**

SOLID GOLD laid bracelet only 20 cases of Perfumery a case. Simply send name mail perfumery, postpaid, sold send money and we will let. We take perfumery The style of the bracelet is and is very neat and attractive design. The lock is exquisite-

740 Silk Prince Cards, Love, Transparent, Escort & Acquaintance Cards, LAUGHING CAMERA, Prize Puzzles, New Games, Magical Illusions &c. Finest Sample Book of Visiting and Hidden Name **CARDS** Biggest list of Premiums All for 2c. stamp. OHIO CARD CO., Cadiz, Ohio.

$5.00 CASH per 1000 paid to Distribute Circulars. Enclose 4 stamps. World Adv. Asso'n, Chicago.

SILK in yard lengths for Crazywork, etc. 15 yards, different colors, and Quilt patterns sent postpaid for 10c. silver. 3 lots 25c. NEW SILK CO., 56, NEWARK, N. J.

YOUR LIFE FORETOLD, written prediction of your life. Send age, sex, lock of hair, 10 cents. PROF. G. RUPPERT, Boston, Mass.

I TELL FORTUNES 10 Test Questions answered for 10c. on business or matters of heart, give birth, sex, lock of hair, price hereafter $1.00. ASTROLOGER, Dept. 16, Portland, Me.

LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you $25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address with stamp. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

THE HAIR TELLS ALL

IF SICK send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4 cents in stamps and I will diagnose your case **FREE** and tell you what will cure your ailments. Address **DR. J. C. BATDORF, Dept. 15 Grand Rapids, Mich.**



FREE.

NON-EXPLOSIVE NIGHT LAMP.

We will send you one of these Lamps with Nickle base, fine handsome pleated shade, chimney etc., all complete if you will send us 15 cents for a six months' trial subscription to our great monthly "SUNSHINE" either in your own or a friend's name. We want '99 to be the banner year for our list and offer this great premium as an inducement for you to take our paper right along. You can make money offering the **New Lamp and Exquisite Perfumery** with new subscribers. Send 15c. at once and we send sample combined **Bottle Perfume** and this **Ornamental and Petite Lamp. Two Lamps** and subscriptions and two lots of Perfumery for 25c. order quick and get agents' terms and low cash discounts in big lots. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Me.



$10.00 in Gold Free.

We will give $10.00 in Gold Free to the person *sending the* **correct answer** to the following **Cow Question.** Take a *little time* and give a *little thought* and **you will succeed.**

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A Twentieth Century Wonder.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONE of the latest scientific wonders is liquid air. It has been a well-known fact among chemists that no given vapor is constant; that at proper temperature and pressure it would become a liquid. Several years ago, French chemists succeeded in liquefying air. This was done by subjecting it to immense pressure, and at the same time to an extremely low temperature. It has remained for an American, Mr. Charles E. Tripler, to manufacture liquid air in larger quantities. While Mr. Tripler has not perfected as yet his arrangements for production on a large enough scale for commercial purposes, he is evidently upon the right track.

The apparatus he uses consists of a powerful air-pump and compression, which forces the atmospheric air into a chamber, under a pressure of hundreds of tons; so great indeed, that 800 cubic feet of air are compressed to one cubic foot. This chamber is cooled to the inconceivable temperature of nearly 312 degrees below zero.

The air when liquefied can be poured like water, and carried in a can safely provided its gases are not confined. For transportation it is poured into an open tin vessel, a large can, holding several gallons. This is wrapped in felt, and is set into another vessel. In this way Mr. Tripler has carried his air with safety and kept it for thirty-six hours.

As yet, the new fluid has been used mainly for experimental purposes, and wonderful indeed are these experiments. Liquid air is a colorless liquid, except for the faintest possible blue tinge. It may be dipped up in an ordinary tumbler. Fill a glass with it—it evaporates in less than half an hour, while the outside of the glass is covered thick with frost. Should an iron dipper be used to hold the fluid, the intense cold affects the iron, making it as brittle as glass. Until they again regain their ordinary temperature, iron and steel are thus affected. Copper, gold, aluminum, and some other metals, however, are not so affected. Neither is leather, though rubber becomes extremely pliable.

It is possible for one to dip his hand into liquid air, but it must be removed again instantly. On the same principle, one may dip his hand into a pot of molten metal, provided it is instantly withdrawn. The moisture on the hand forms a cushion between the liquid in either case for an instant. Should the hand be held in the fluid too long, however, a frost-bite, as painful as a burn, would be the result. On withdrawing the hand from the air it is found to be perfectly dry. Some of the liquid dropped on a piece of cloth does not wet it, but where the liquid has touched the cloth it is covered with a white frost. A piece of meat dipped into the liquid air becomes frozen as hard as stone, and can be pounded into a fine powder.

Mercury, which does not freeze under ordinary conditions is frozen as hard as a bar of iron on exposure to this air. When thus frozen it remains solid for a long time. Alcohol, also, which is harder to freeze than mercury, becomes solid and forms beautiful white crystals.

Though so intensely cold, liquid air has the appearance of being very hot, and bubbles and boils away, though the edges of the vessel containing it are covered with frost. An interesting experiment is shown by putting some of the liquid air into a tea-kettle. It boils steadily. Put the tea-kettle over a Bunsen burner, and while the boiling is not so rapid, a sheet of ice forms on the kettle directly over the flame. A lump of ice dropped into the kettle makes the air boil more briskly, and water poured into the kettle increases the boiling greatly, while the water is frozen into dry white lumps of ice.

What the discoverer calls a geyser is made as follows: A test-tube is partly filled with liquid air. The end of the tube is closed with a cork, through which a glass tube passes, just dipping into the liquid air. The air at once rushes through this glass tube, making clouds of steam several feet high. The test-tube cannot be held in the hand long, or a severe frost bite would result.

Another interesting experiment is made as follows: A thin glass tumbler is filled with the liquid air, and is set in a vessel of water. At once a thin coating of ice is formed on the outside of the glass. After this has been repeated several times, the tumbler is enclosed in a thick cup of ice. The tumbler is now removed, and liquid air is poured into the icecup. A steel wire with a lighted match attached is now dipped into the liquid, and the steel at once burns and melts, giving off brilliant sparks. After the experiment, globules of melted steel are found at the bottom of the icecup. The wonderful feat of melting steel in a crucible of ice has been accomplished. This is especially wonderful when we reflect that steel is one of the most refractory of metals, and under ordinary conditions requires a heat of thousands of degrees to melt. Other more inflammable objects ignited and thrown into the icecup, flash up like gunpowder.

The explosive power of this fluid is shown by putting a few drops into a heavy copper tube. A plug is driven tightly in the open end, but is at once forced out by the confined gases. The effect is the same as that of water confined in a white hot tube. Cotton waste saturated in liquid air is put into a stout steel tube, open at both ends. A spark is applied, and the steel is torn into thousands of pieces.

Though as yet hardly more than a wonderful curiosity, the discoverer claims that liquid air is destined, when methods for its economical production are perfected, to become one of the most useful of agents.

For refrigerating it will be invaluable and no difficulty will be experienced in keeping food by its use, indefinitely. Not only that, but houses may be cooled in summer as easily as they are now warmed in winter, while the by-product will be pure air instead of stifling gases, such as arise from combustion. In hospitals pure air, entirely free from germs, can be supplied, while safety for nurses and advantage to patients in many contagious and fever cases could be assured by keeping the air at a low temperature. Especially would this prove valuable in tropical countries. In medicine liquid air could be used in cauterizing wounds, and would be safer and more effective than the agents now employed.

As an explosive, cotton soaked in liquid air would be terribly effective as well as safer, since it would not explode by concussion, but only by a spark. It could also be used in place of steam for propelling vessels, the outside air would furnish heat enough for its action. In submarine navigation especially this would prove valuable, as after being used to propel the vessel it could be used for breathing, and would furnish a good supply of fresh, pure air. Being compact and very easy to carry, vessels could save the weight of the vast quantities of coal they are obliged to carry and so could travel faster on account of the loss of weight. Liquid air might also help out the problem of aerial navigation. On account of its peculiar properties it could be easily carried, and could be used in boilers made of lighter material than iron. This loss of weight would be a highly important consideration.

The discoverer claims, and with good right, that liquid air, when its economical manufacture has been completed, will be no less a boon to civilization than is electricity. We may hope to see it an established fact as one of the marvels of the twentieth century.

THE GREAT PACIFIC BRIDGE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AND now the next wonder we may expect is a bridge across the Pacific! When this astounding fact is brought to our notice we immediately think up and down our map and then we explain, "Why, certainly over Behring Strait." But no, we are told to guess again. Probably every one has some idea of the distance across the Pacific Ocean. It may be measured in nothing less than thousands of miles and to cross it one must undergo the discomforts of a voyage which takes weeks and possibly months. Then what a boon to be able to cross in a comfortable Pullman, to be able to go from New York, Boston or Montreal round to Paris, Berlin or Rome without leaving the train. This all seems like a fairy tale, but is it any more wonderful than what has already been accomplished by nature? And this bridge is now in process of construction and each year brings it nearer completion. This work is not done under the eye of a corps of civil engineers and by a gang of laborers, but according to laws no less absolute than those of the architect and by methods far more sure than those of the contractor. This wonderful bridge is being formed by the chain of islands at the south of Behring Sea, near Alaska.

A reference to a map will show the long point of land reaching out toward Asia which we call the Peninsula of Alaska. From this point is a well-defined chain of islands reaching across to the Peninsula of Kamschatka in Asia. This is the line of a fold in the earth's crust and it is slowly but surely rising higher and higher, and the islands at present visible are only the high peaks of a mountain chain, while the valleys are below water in the narrow straits and channels between the islands. Long ago the Russians called this chain the Aleutian Islands from their word *aleut*, which meant a rock, and the name is most characteristic for they are all formed by a volcanic action and are many of them devoid of vegetation as yet.

Not long ago a new island appeared out of the ocean and its emergence into this world of ours was most romantic. During the night strange lights and fires were seen for miles about, and presently this great mass of rock, accompanied by steam and smoke rose from the ocean and grew higher and higher until it overtopped the ocean by fifteen hundred feet. This was the birth of Bagislov Island. Recently this island has been in active eruption, as have several other islands of the group. These islands lie between 50 and 55 degrees N. and the climate is of course cold, so that the inhabitants depend almost entirely upon fishing for their sustenance. The natives are a short, plump people, more like the Asiatic than the American type. Their skill in seal fishery is their one accomplishment and this is most unsportsmanlike. The seals are driven up on to the low shore in a place from which they cannot easily escape and then, being helpless, they are clubbed to death and skinned on the spot. The Pribyloff Islands, just north of the Aleutian, are said to be the most productive seal fishery in the world.

But now the question naturally comes: What causes this great upheaval of the earth along this chain of islands? Far up on the summits of the Rocky Mountains, perhaps a thousand miles from Behring Sea, this work begins in the little rills which flow down from the summits, each drop laden with its particle of soil for the great river Yukon. This river is seldom understood for it has been little known until lately. It is, in reality, one of the largest river systems of the world and sends as much water into the sea as does the Mississippi. Through its long course from the mountains the amount of rock material which it gathers is enormous and all this rock waste, or detritus, is spread out upon the bottom of Behring Sea. The enormous delta which the Yukon has already built shows its ability in land building. It is said that the Mississippi builds a mile of dry land at its mouth in every sixteen years, and there is every reason to believe that the Yukon builds as rapidly. Already it has added thousands of square miles to the Alaskan territory and has made the waters off-shore so shallow that only small vessels can enter the river. Thus Behring Sea will probably, after a time, become dry land over which the way will be easy to Asia. But long before that happens our island bridge will be complete, for the constant deposition of such vast quantities of material upon the floor of the sea causes a sinking of that region and that, in turn, causes the islands to be lifted, for the earth is in such a condition that a depression in one place causes uplift in another. When the uplift has reached such a height that all the valleys are above the level of the sea, our bridge will be complete, and by that time, a railroad across Siberia having been built, our trip from New York to Paris by way of Asia, will be possible.

Shall we live to see all this? Perhaps not, but what matters it? It is well to know toward what this world is tending though we may not see the consummation of the work. The achievements of Nature are far too vast to be accomplished within the span of one human life.

The Tomb of The Holy Donkeys.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18.)

and money, he bowed in silence to pray towards Mecca, when suddenly he recognized in the holy keeper of the tomb his old servant Mohammed. "Salam alaykoom", said Sheikh Ali. "Alaykoom essalam," replied Mohammed. When he asked him how he came there, and how he found this tomb, Mohammed replied, "This tomb, is a great 'sirr,' or mystery, and I am forbidden to utter the secret." "But you *must* tell *me*," said Sheikh Ali, "for I am a father to you." Mohammed refused and Ali insisted, until at length Mohammed said, "My honored Sheikh, you remember having given me a donkey. It was a faithful donkey, and when it died I buried it. This is the tomb of that donkey!"

"Mashallah! Mashallah!" said the Sheikh Ali, "the will of Allah be done!" Then they ate and drank together, and renewed the memory of their former life, and then Sheikh Mohammed said to Sheikh Ali. "My master, as I have told you the mystery of my prophet's tomb, I wish to know the secret of yours."

"Impossible," said Ali, "for that is one of the ancient mysteries, too sacred to be mentioned by mortal lips."

"But you *must* tell me, even as I have told you." At length the old Sheikh Ali stroked his snowy beard, adjusted his white turban, and whispered to Mohammed, "And my holy place is the *tomb of that donkey's father*!" "Mashallah," said Mohammed, "may Allah bless the beard of the holy donkeys!"

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Hens' Eggs and Their Make-Up.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE farmer's wife usually falls the duty of taking care of the chickens, and the cash received for eggs sold is commonly regarded as her special perquisite. With the "egg money" she buys her dresses and the few simple luxuries that signify so much to her in the way of comfort. Indeed, what the rural housewife does not know about hens and eggs would seem to be hardly worth knowing.

And yet it would appear that even she might learn a thing or two from certain investigations which experts of the Department of Agriculture have been making recently. Take for example the make-up of an egg, considered with reference to its food value. Sixty-six per cent. of it, the experts have learned, is just ordinary water; a little over 10 per cent. is shell, and 1 per cent. more is mineral matter contained in the material of the inside. This calculation leaves 23 per cent. of food substance, of which two-thirds is muscle-forming stuff, the remaining third being fat.

Now, it is often said that there is as much nourishment in one egg as in a pound of meat. This, the experts declare, is not true. Eggs are just about as nutritious as lean beef, pound for pound, but an egg weighs only two ounces. Accordingly, it would appear that eight eggs are required to furnish the equivalent of a pound of meat as food for a workingman.

Another popular notion, long accepted, has been exploded by the investigators—namely, that brown-shelled eggs are more nutritious than white-shelled eggs. In order to make sure of the facts in this case, the experts analyzed the brown eggs of Partridge Cochins, Dark Brahmas, Black Langshans, Wyandottes, and Barred Plymouth Rocks, and the white eggs of Brown Leghorns, White Minorcas, and Black Minorcas. As a result, it was found that there was no difference between white eggs and brown eggs in respect to food value.

Next, experiments were made with the eggs of several breeds of hens, to find out if those laid by any particular variety had superior food value. It was proved, however, that they were all about the same in this respect. Then the effect of various kinds of rations on the composition of eggs was tested, some of the hens being fed on meat scraps, others on wheat, and others yet on corn and rice meal. It did not appear that the diet made any difference in this regard. Lastly, it was ascertained, by boiling eggs different lengths of time and digesting them artificially in a pepsin solution, that hard-boiled eggs are quite as digestible as soft-boiled ones—a conclusion directly opposite to long-accepted theory.

The old-fashioned "schoolmarm" used to teach her pupils that the bones and beak of a newly hatched chicken were made out of the white of the egg and the flesh and feathers from the yolk. It is safe to say that the average farmer's wife to-day knows a great deal better than that. She is probably aware that the white spot on one side of the yolk is the germ of the fowl that is to be, and that the developing bird derives its sustenance first from the yolk and next from the white. When the food supply thus provided by nature is exhausted, the chick is ready to chip the shell.

If a human infant one day old were able to walk about and pick up a living, the case would be considered marvelous. The chick, however, unlike the child, *inherits experience*, and when it emerges from its shell, has already solved a variety of problems, including those of locomotion on two legs, the edible properties of many food substances and the vocabulary of its anxious mother. This, however, is not a discussion of chickens but of eggs, and it ought not to be brought to a conclusion without some reference to the art of preserving eggs, upon which so much attention has been bestowed within the last few years.

Eggs, of course, are vastly cheaper and more plentiful in summer than in winter, and wholesale dealers in the cities have adopted the practice of gathering them up by millions from the farmers in the warm season and holding them over for sale during the cold months. Indeed, bakers and confectioners depend almost entirely upon preserved eggs for their winter supply. Up to date no thoroughly successful method of accomplishing this sort of preserving has been discovered, though a gigantic fortune awaits the inventor of a satisfactory process. Cold-storage does fairly well, but the eggs must not be frozen, and so decomposition is arrested only to a certain extent. Varnishes of vaseline and other substances have been tried, but the difficulty always lies in the fact that each egg encloses some air, and with the air germs of decay. The best process found thus far is to keep the eggs in lime-water, and in this way immense numbers are preserved annually. It is obvious that anybody who can buy summer eggs at twelve cents a dozen and sell them in winter, strictly fresh, at thirty cents a dozen, will soon be a millionaire.

From the wild "jungle fowl" of India, which lays only a few small white eggs annually, all modern varieties of chickens are known to be descended. Out of this bird, by breeding, has been developed a feathered creature that lays nearly all the year round, and which produces its own weight in eggs in six weeks! The individual egg, be it realized, has been multiplied in weight by five. Thus the modern hen's egg may be regarded, in a sense, as an artificial product. To accomplish this wonderful result many thousands of years have been required, and it is known that the Chinese, long before the beginning of the Christian era, bred chickens and domesticated several improved varieties of them. Even in those days they understood the use of incubators.

People who live in cities complain that they find it very difficult to get fresh eggs at any cost. This is because so many buyers and sellers intervene between the hen and the consumer. Eggs are sometimes collected from the farmers by men who drive about in buggies and gather them at a stated price. One farmer may have thirteen, and another thirteen dozen; there is nothing regular about the crop, and the eggs may have been accumulating for a period greater or less. Other eggs are exchanged by the farmers' wives for goods at the village stores, and in this way millions are brought to market, the storekeepers having relations with wholesalers' agents. Eventually, whatever may be the method, the eggs arrive at the wholesale houses in the cities, where they undergo first of all a process of classification.

This process is accomplished by what is known as "candling". That is to say, an expert, in classifying the eggs, holds each one for a moment between his eye and a candle. If perfectly fresh, all parts of it will appear clearly illuminated. The slightest staleness will be shown by a certain degree of opacity. So easy is it to test eggs in this way, in a dark room, that any housewife can do it satisfactorily for herself without any practice at all. An adept in the business, however, is able to "candle" in a day's work of ten hours, fifteen barrels of eggs. Improved methods of candling have been adopted recently, one of which consists in putting the eggs in a wire crate and placing the latter upon a sheet of glass through which a powerful electric light shines from beneath. This instantly betrays any stale specimens, which are readily removed.

The cracked eggs go to bakers and to cheap restaurants, at half-price. The hopelessly rotten ones are bought by leather manufacturers. Those which are only partly "gone" are sold mostly to poor Hebrews, at five cents a dozen wholesale. In the large cities eggs of this class are usually retailed afterwards by liquid measure, at so much a pint, being separated from the shells. They may not be specially appetizing, but they afford a great deal of nutriment in proportion to their cost.

THE MINUTE MAN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TO read of the places of historical interest in Massachusetts is one thing—but to actually *visit* them is an occurrence to be treasured as long as life lasts.

Of course Plymouth comes first in our desires, and here are to be seen, among many other things, the Rock, now carefully guarded by being enclosed within an iron railing; Pilgrim Hall, with its many relics of our forefathers, the old graveyards in which they were laid to rest, and the Statue of Hope, presented by the late Oliver Ames, in memory of the Pilgrims.

At Salem and in Boston are numberless historic places—and at Concord and Lexington we find the old battlefields and relics of the revolution. Here we may spend days and days in quiet enjoyment. The towns in themselves are extremely beautiful and restful, so there is no desire to leave them even after everything has been seen. At Concord we find Sleepy Hollow, in which lies at rest Hawthorne, Emerson and Thoreau. Here also we find the beautiful statue of the Minute Man, which stands at the end of the bridge crossing the Concord river. This statue shows a finely built young man, dressed in the Continental costume and holding a musket—one hand resting on a plow. The figure is mounted on a huge square granite pedestal, upon which is inscribed the following verse:

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world."

For the Sake of Illustration.

BY MRS. E. S. L. THOMPSON.

"Annie," he said drawing his chair nearer the divan on which a woman with snow-white hair sat toying with a current magazine.

"Meeting you here to-day is the *unexpected!* Twenty-five years since you refused to run away and marry me. Twenty-five years since I laid my hand on your brown curls in a parting blessing! You married the man of all men—Annie I would rather have seen you dead than wed to him! Yet, God knows, when I heard the wedding bells had rung I prayed for His blessing on you and yours! Where is—Edward?"

"Dead, five years ago!"

"And your children? Three little boys and a girl, Jack told me."

"All gone but Donald, the eldest, he is in South America."

"And you are alone, all alone?"

Richard Cathcart left the chair and sat down beside her. Yet neither kiss nor caress did he offer!

"We have both suffered," he said very gently. "I should have been more patient and waited your father's pleasure. He would have yielded in another year when you were older. When I joined the Regular Army I expected to remain indefinitely.

"Instead I served ten years; how faithfully my crutches can attest. Since my discharge I have roamed over the world." He smiled down on the handsome woman who still looked *herself* all but the white hair. I knew I needed a home—and yet—I didn't want one without *you!*

"I hadn't heard of Edward's death—Jack did not mention it in his letters when I returned from Germany three years ago. Nor did he speak of your children, only that you had three boys and a girl. You remember Gerald Hough? I returned to England visiting him at his father's home in Surrey. Their home was on The Solent; I spent six months there and aided him in the revision of his book.

"Then we went to Switzerland for a rest and his cousin, Madame Du Reau, was of our party.

"Perhaps my story will be tiresome?" he turned a face full of entreaty toward her. "I've waited twenty-five years for a word! It comes to-night without our seeking. When I registered my name I saw yours and knew at once who it was——"

"Go on Mr.—Dick!" Her voice trembled; a white, jeweled hand reached out—and then drew back!"

"You are free!" he cried hoarsely, "but I am not! I married Urseline Du Reau—to us was born a son—dead!

"But yesterday I left her in a private asylum for the insane. Dr. Joliet pronounces her a curable patient—I will have my wife again!

"She is beautiful, and pure, and true—I have tried to make her happy—and yet Annie, is it wrong to ask if you have kept any memory of Dick in your heart all these years?

"That you were a faithful wife and a good mother I know; you could not have been otherwise. You are a queen among women still! You were my soul's mate and I was yours! You have the boy to love and I have—your memory!"

Richard Cathcart groaned out the last words he would ever say to Annie Wallerand.

He was a proud, self-sustained, and virtuous man.

Her deep eyes shone with the old love! Her sweet, perfect mouth tried to frame an answer. The white, waving hair—so like a crown of shining silver, all at once leaned against his breast!

The years of his lost youth came back to him—he clasped her in his arms!

But why did she not respond? Must he plead in vain for one word?

"*Annie!*" He uplifted the dear face with a passionate entreaty. The chord of life had snapped—he looked into the face of the dead!

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

You want to know where Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippines, England, France and all countries are located. All the boys and girls must know, we have a few, only, of those wonderful, indestructible cloth Globes left. They are printed in colors like a map and are to be sewed and stuffed, entertainment and instruction combined. One will be sent with our big bargain book for 6c. mailing expenses. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



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The average man saves about **twenty-five dollars a year** by shaving himself and by having a good outfit, you can take comfort enough and save dollars enough to carry you over many rough places in life. We have tried to get up a practical shaving outfit for many years, but the expense of fitting out a suitable case of bang-up **A No. one** tools has been so great that not until a visit to Norway and Sweden revealed the fact that **Swedish Razors** were now the best in the world and the makers were anxious to prove it to the American people could we do so. Thus we **bargained** for a large lot of the best quality at very low figures. By getting the goods from different countries and buying in large lots, we have made up a case of great value at very small cost. These outfits come packed in cases eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of **1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized Handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic**—making a grand $5.00 combination, all packed in a compact case ready for shipment. We estimated that nearly every man in the country out of necessity shaves himself at some time or other during each month and one long wait in a barber shop sometimes costs more than this whole outfit is valued at. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use at all events and we have thus got it together at a low cost so as to be able to offer **the best** articles at the lowest cost. **Every woman** should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman, and **you can get one free as follows:** Send a club of six yearly subscribers to **Illustrated Family Herald,** at 25c each and we will send an outfit all charges paid, or send $1.49 in cash and we deliver it free—extending your subscription one year.

Address ILLUSTRATED FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.

Among Our New Possessions.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

should have monopoly of the trade and territory in certain portions to the exclusion of other nations, and that this general partition should take place, each power having its own zone for future development and trade. On the contrary, the English and American nations have strenuously held out for the "open door" policy, which simply means that all nations are to have equal rights in every trading port in China. The latest nation to appear in this struggle is Italy, which demands the lease of Sam Mun Bay in the province of Che-Kiang as a coaling station and naval base. There has been very much friction between the Italians and the Tsung-Li-Yanen, which is the Chinese Foreign Affairs office. Under pretence of insult, the Italians have withdrawn from negotiations and are preparing for a naval demonstration and probable seizure of the part which they covet. The Chinese Government has refused all demands and is supported by Great Britain, notwithstanding that reports to the contrary have been published. It is said the British Government would like to have the United States and Japan join with it to proceed against the foreign nations in China, even to the point of making a display of force, and engaging in hostilities to compel Italy to entirely withdraw from China. The other powers desire America to take no hand, as it has been for a long time the plan of all European nations to isolate England and so counteract her great and growing strength.

So anxious is the German empire to have cordial relations with the United States that it is generally believed the German Emperor is making his plans to bring that empire into close alliance with England, America and Japan. Already the causes for irritation between the Americans and Germans are disappearing and Admiral Von Diedrichs, who has caused so



PREMIER FRANCISCO SILVELA.

much annoyance to Admiral Dewey, has been superseded by Prince Henry, the Emperor's brother, who will now have full command of the German naval forces in the East. Official newspapers in Germany are gradually working up the idea of the great Anglo-Saxon alliance, and placing the Germans as a Saxon nation. The general drift seems to be a withdrawal of Germany from its more southern neighbors, and it would seem that its vast and growing trade and manufacturing would naturally put it in league with the other great manufacturing countries. The most significant step in this direction has been the full withdrawal of Germany from the Philippines and placing her interests there in the hands of America.

One of the most noticeable things of the month has been the interview of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, who is in Europe negotiating for the great African railroad through the continent. Mr. Rhodes is a deep thinker and as Premier of Cape Colony has been practically the maker of South Africa and its wonderful prosperity. "It is the duty of civilized nations to take charge of barbarians and give them white man's government," he said. "The United States is one of the great Powers and cannot escape this duty." He declared that it would be found impossible for our country to abandon either Cuba or the Philippines. And further stated that within a century we should govern both North and South America. Mr Rhodes is an "expansionist" of the broadest sort; but his experience and the fact that he is the leading English colonist of his day have caused his interview to be studied in every European Capital and it has caused wide comment and concern. Whether any of us agree with him or not, it is well to note how carefully every modern statesman is watching the great Republic that has grown so marvelously great, rich and strong in so short a time, and how whether we wish it or not our very successes have placed us in a commanding position in the family of Nations.

Why "Tumblers."

PROBABLY it never occurred to many people to inquire why these glasses are called tumblers. Surely, they do not tumble any more than some other things not so named. But the name has a significant origin. Years ago, a luncheon was given to one of the royal Princesses, at Oxford, England. Of course the guests were supposed to converse on very weighty subjects. But what excited the interest and curiosity of the guests the most was a set of little round silver bowls about the size of an orange. They were brought round filled with ale brewed in the town. These were called tumblers, and the guests were shown why they were called so. When one of the little bowls was empty, it was placed upon the table mouth downward. So perfect was its balance, that instantly it flew back to its original position. No matter in what position it was placed—trundled along the floor, balanced upon its side, dropped suddenly upon the soft carpet—up it would roll, and giving itself a few little shakings, would settle itself into the same old position. So our tumblers were first made of silver, but as glass became common, round ones that would stand on a flat base took the place of the silver balls and also took the name.

The Tomb of the Holy Donkeys.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONCE upon a time there was a great Sheikh Ali, a holy man, who kept the holy tomb of an ancient prophet. The tomb was on a hill, under a big oak tree, and the white dome could be seen for miles around. Lamps were kept burning day and night in the tomb, and if any one extinguished them they were miraculously lighted again. Men with sore eyes came to visit it and were cured. The earth around the tomb was carried off to be used as a medicine. Women came and tied old rags on the limbs of the tree, as vows to the wonderful prophet. Nobody knew the name of the prophet, but the tomb was called "Kobr en Nebi," or "Tomb of the Prophet." A green cloth was spread over the tomb under the dome, and incense was sold by the Sheikh to those who wished to heal their sick, or drive out evil spirits from their houses. Pilgrims came from afar to visit the holy place and its fame extended over all the land.

Sheikh Ali was becoming a rich man, and all the pilgrims kissed his hand and begged his blessing. Now Sheikh Ali had a faithful servant named Mohammed, who had served him long and well. But Mohammed was weary of living in one place, and asked permission to go and seek his fortune in distant parts. So Sheikh Ali gave him his blessing and presented him with a donkey, which he had for many years, that he might ride when tired of walking.

Then Mohammed, thus provided, set out on his journey. He went through cities and towns and villages, and at last came out on the mountains east of the Jordan in a desert place. No village or house was in sight, and night came on. Tired, hungry and discouraged poor Mohammed lay down by his donkey on a great pile of stones, and fell asleep. In the morning he awoke and, alas! his donkey was dead. He was in despair, but his kindly nature would not let the poor brute lie there to be devoured by jackals and vultures, so he piled a mound of stones over the body and sat down to weep.

While he was weeping a wealthy Hajji, or pilgrim, came along on his return from Mecca. He was surprised to see a man alone in this wilderness and asked him why he was weeping. Mohammed replied, "O Hajji, I have found the tomb of a holy prophet, and I have vowed to be its keeper; but I am in great need." The Hajji thanked him for the news, dismounted to visit the holy place and gave Mohammed a rich present. After he had gone Mohammed hastened to the nearest village and bought provisions and then returned to the holy prophet's tomb. The Hajji spread the news and pilgrims thronged to the spot with rich presents and offerings. As money came in Mohammed brought masons and built a costly tomb, with a tall white dome that could be seen across the Jordan. He lived in a little room by the tomb, and soon the miraculous lights began to appear in the tomb at night, which Mohammed had kindled when no one was near. He increased in fame and wealth and the prophet's tomb came to be regarded as one of the great shrines of the land.

At length Sheikh Ali heard of the fame of the new holy place in the desert, and as his own visitors began to fall off, decided to go himself and gain the merit of a visit to the tomb of that famous prophet. When he arrived there with his rich presents of green cloth, incense,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.)

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The latest and not the least novel of innovations is the lighting of the Egyptian Pyramids by electricity.

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If you suffer from Epilepsy, Fits, Spasms, Spells, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus's Dance, etc., have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted my New Discovery, Epilepticide, will PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for a FREE Bottle and try it. It has CURED thousands where everything else failed. My 90-page Illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Permanently Cured," FREE. When writing, please give name, AGE and full address. All correspondence professionally confidential.

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We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than $5 every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a $20,000.00 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA

Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to $5.00 and upward; Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. We show a large line of suits at from $5.00 to $8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloonings, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Net Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $1.00 to

Rio, Wis., June 20th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than $30.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as $350.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.

Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 2c stamp for reply. We have hundreds of letters similar to Mr. Doyle's.

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YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK from us of AT LEAST $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

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GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

..... Sign your name on above line.

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Your age .....

Married or single .....

Address your letters plainly to

On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

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TEA SET FREE

56 PIECES. Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 56 piece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. J, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.

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More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE have been a number of calls for directions for raising Chinese lilies. This is really very simple, if the bulbs are fresh when purchased. Use a regular Chinese lily earthenware dish, which is broad and open at the top and is decorated with Chinese figures, if possible, for these dishes seem so much more appropriate than anything else, and are very strong and not at all liable to breakage; if, however, you do not happen to have one, use a broad glass dish.

First put a few stones in the dish and then put in the bulbs; then put in more stones, loosely, so as to allow the roots to grow among them; fill the dish with water and do not change it, but add fresh every day, that is of about the same temperature as that already in the dish.

I have heard that the Chinese gash the bulbs in several places before placing them in the water, for it is said that a stalk will come out of every gash, and so there will be a fine foliage.

In growing bulbs of any kind, it is considered best to keep them in the dark for a few weeks after putting them into water, and so giving the roots a chance to get well started before the tops come out; sometimes it is well to keep them in the dark for a couple of weeks, and then bring them gradually into the bright light—that is, take them from their dark corner in the closet and put them in a dark corner of a room, away from the window, for another week; by that time the roots will have got an excellent start, and the dish may be put near the window—but it is well not to keep it too near, as a moderate light is better for lilies than the glaring sunlight.

We came across, recently, in a search for novelties, a dainty little bag or box, which might be used for several things, but which seems specially adaptable to holding embroidery, scissors, silk etc.

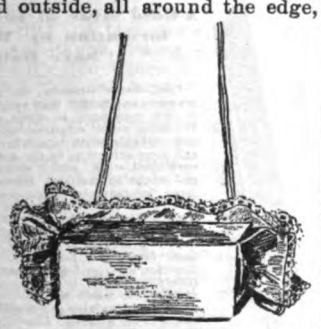
When closed this bag resembles an oblong box with ruffles at the ends—and when open it



CHINESE LILY BULBS.

is simply flat and oblong in shape, with rounded ends. Our diagram shows the shape. For this is used silk of a delicate tint with little figures all over it, for the outside, and a plain China silk for a lining. The lining and outside are cut exactly alike, measuring seventeen inches wide by twenty inches long, with rounded corners. In the center, between the lining and outside, are placed five pieces of heavy cardboard, which form the top, bottom and sides of the box. Three of these pieces measure seven inches long by three and one-fourth inches wide, and one of these is laid exactly in the center, forming the bottom—the other two pieces of same size being laid on either side and close up to the first piece. These two pieces form the sides. The narrower pieces, but of the same length, seven inches long by two and one-eighth inches wide, are placed one at either side of the three already placed, and form the top of the box. A row of machine stitching goes entirely around all these pieces and so holds them exactly in place.

A delicate, narrow lace is inserted between the lining and outside, all around the edge, and stitched with the machine. Then a row of sixteen small brass rings is sewn around on the lining, as shown in our diagram, and through these rings is run a double row of narrow satin ribbon. When the ribbons are drawn up, one at each side, the box closes in perfect manner and shows a dainty receptacle like the picture entitled "Embroidery Box."



EMBROIDERY BOX.

This is a great improvement on the bag used by almost every woman for her embroidery materials, which is one with a circular cardboard bottom, and the upper part of silk, gathered onto this circle and drawn up with ribbon—for this box can be flattened out and the contents be looked over without taking anything out, or in any way disturbing the silks which so easily get tangled up.

There has recently come to the front, in large cities, a new branch of employment for women called "house-opening." The duties of such a woman are very trying, and only one with cast iron nerves should undertake them—but if she has executive ability and knows how, this is a fine chance for some women—notably those who have had fine homes of their own, but through misfortune have lost them—for they know exactly what to do. The idea is this: A lady who has been away for the summer wishes her home put in order before her arrival. She therefore writes to one of these house-openers, telling her the date of her arrival, and then her care in the matter ceases; not so the house-opener, however, for then *her* trouble begins; first she goes all over the house and sees just what is to be done, and then she seeks plumbers, painters, upholsterers, gas and electric men, and supervises each and all until finally, when the day arrives and with it Madame and her children and retinue of servants, the house is all in perfect order—even to the fresh flowers in all the rooms—for the

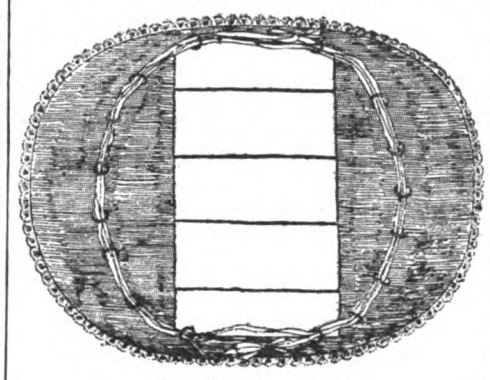


DIAGRAM OF BOX.

home-coming. What a blessing this must be for those who can afford it—for who but a housewife realizes what it is to come home to a musty house that needs repairing and freshening before it can be lived in with any degree of comfort.

ONE—TWO—ONE.

BY E. S. L. T.

HE sat in the "madding crowd" at the great banquet. Fair women and brave men around and about him and yet he was all alone.

Success had come to this man now in his early forties—a large measure of fame, and power, and money. He had wed early. Too early in life for the ratification of his maturer judgment. The toy of Beauty, wherein dwelt no soul luster, had long since ceased to charm or inspire. He was hungry, heart and soul hungry, but none gave him bread! He was athirst but none gave him drink! His broad white brow bore across it lines of care. His mouth—what a fine, expressive feature it was, had about and around it the agony of compression and pain.

His fine blue eyes were sad almost to tears. He forced smiles to his lips and flashed wit and repartee at those around him. The laughter and the talk ceased as he rose to respond to a toast. All eyes were fixed upon him. Every word that fell from his lips was a jewel—a finished prose poem. He warmed to his theme. His face lit up with a sudden glow.

Now, he catches a gleam in another pair of eyes! Something in the soul which they voiced had responded to his soul! The eyes of a stranger—he had wondered who she was, the slight figure gowned in black—seemingly unattended at that scene of festivity.

Grey-brown eyes over which the lids fell as suddenly as they had been raised! The face; ah, it was sad or sadder than his own. He studied the face as he talked on.

"Who is *she* and *why* here?"

Already has his peace of mind been disturbed by that modest but earnest gaze. Such a listener as *she* is well worth the fire and eloquence with which he invests his theme! When the toasting and the feast is over there is the renewing of old acquaintances and the making of new ones. He misses part of her name when they are presented; it is——Graeme, but whether wife, maid, or widow he knows not.

Her low, sweet voice is tremulous and half afraid of its own sound. His own deep, musical baritone seems to swallow it as Death is swallowed up in victory! He notes that she is with his special friends Mr. and Mrs. Douglass Deleplane. He joins them on the gallery for a word with this plain woman. So plain that her more shining sisters wonder why the Deleplanes have brought her to this brilliant assemblage. He thinks of his dream as he watches her face light up, for he has joined the group; Mrs. Deleplane calls her "Hildegarde"; Ah, Swinburne's roudel sings itself anew to him as he stands there, an unwonted flush on his fine face!

"These many years since we began to be
What have the Gods done with us—what with me,
What with my love? They have shown me fates and fears
Harsh springs and fountains bitterer than the sea,
Grief a fixed star, and Joy a vane that veers
These many years."

He thought her eyes were beautiful. Those brown pupiled eyes with the changing shades of grey in them! He saw, too, that the soul of this woman was delicate and refined, that she was sensitive but not melancholy; sorrow had troubled her with its tumultuous breath, but it had sweetened and not embittered her nature. When Hildegarde Graeme talked the little group listened! The dull ache at this man's heart lost itself in the infectious charm and brilliance of her speech and thought, in the almost perfect ripeness of her intellect! She was beautiful, she was radiant, when her lips moved and her soul let go its thrall.

One short hour! He had lived a lifetime in it—a lifetime of happiness and joy! He knew the wish was wrong, the hope vain, that he might be with her forever. Would it be possible for him to smile over the adieux that would

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20.)

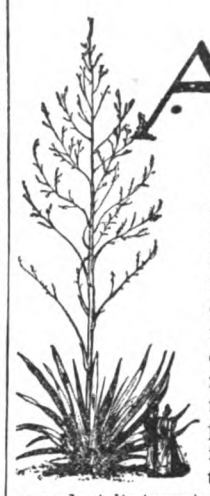


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Write for our Complete Furniture Catalogue

Owing to the failure of a large furniture concern we had an opportunity to purchase over 3000 of these desirable couches at less than one-fourth their real value and while they last offer them at the ridiculously low price of **$4.00** each. **Description:** Full size, 76 inches long by 27 inches wide, upholstered in any color of American Damask, full spring edge, 4 rows of best oil tempered springs, nicely finished and tufted with buttons and fringe on the side, frames all hardwood. **Send us $4.00** and mention this paper and we will make immediate shipment in any color of upholstering desired or send us $1.00 as evidence of good faith and we will ship it C.O.D., with the privilege of examination for the balance of $3.00. **Order to-day. They will not last long. VICTOR MANUFACTURING CO., Dept. F. Z., 295 and 297 Fifth Ave., CHICAGO, ILL.**

The Century Plant.



A POPULAR error is derived from the prevalent notion that the Century Plant, botanically known as Agave Americana, blossoms but once in a hundred years. It is probable that this plant flowers but once in its lifetime and the period of flowering derives its peculiarity from the fact that its life is one of abnormal duration, such plants having been known to flower in their eightieth year. The particular specimen shown in our illustration is one of the Fourcroya which blossomed at its twenty-fifth year; its total height is thirty feet, and its leaves measure from six to seven feet in length.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 *Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.*

Wickliffe's Bible was the first translation made into the English language.

Fish found in the waters of the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky are without eyes.

HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8 cents. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRENE DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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$1.95 BUYS A $3.50 Suit.

3,000 CELEBRATED "KANTWEAROUT" double seat and double knee. Regular $3.50 Boys' 2-Piece Knee-Pant Suits going at **$1.95.** A NEW SUIT FREE for any of these suits which don't give satisfactory wear.

Send No Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state age of boy and say whether large or small for age, and we will send you the suit by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to suits sold in your town for $3.50, pay your express agent our special offer price, **$1.95** and express charges.

THESE KNEE-PANT SUITS are for boys from 4 to 15 years of age, and are retailed everywhere at $3.50. Made with double seat and knees, latest 1899 style as illustrated, made from a special wear-resisting, heavy weight, ALL-WOOL Oakwell cassimere, neat, handsome pattern, fine serge lining, Clayton patent interlining, padding, staying and reinforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor-made throughout, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of. FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of Boys' Clothing (suits, overcoats or ulsters), for boys 4 TO 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 90C. Contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.

Men's Suits and Overcoats made to order from $5.00 up. Samples sent free on application. Address,

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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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We will send for a two-cent Postage Stamp a sample of this Triple Silver-plated Ladies' Stick-Pin, or Gentleman's Scarf-Pin (The Famous Lucky Star Pin). The Star and words are in blue enamel. Sample, by mail, Two Cents. Address
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CHATELAINE WATCH
In An Elegant Case FREE.

Every Lady needs just such a Watch. No matter if she has a $50.00 one it won't keep any better time and this is for use and every-day wear. It will last a life time. It is an entirely new pattern. The Pin is good size, strong and handsome. Yes! pretty as a picture! Best of all, we got a Bargain on them, for the Makers are anxious to get them introduced, so we can sell hundreds where one goes first. We will send one, packed in the satin-lined, Morocco covered case **free,** if you get up a club of only 10 subscribers to COMFORT at the special price of 25 cents per year. You can easily sell this Watch for $5.00 if you want to, but after you get it you won't part with it for any money. Send us the 10 names and $2.50 and the watch is yours, free. If any man has a sweetheart and wants to make her happy, he should get her this Watch at once. Sent for $2.38 cash. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**
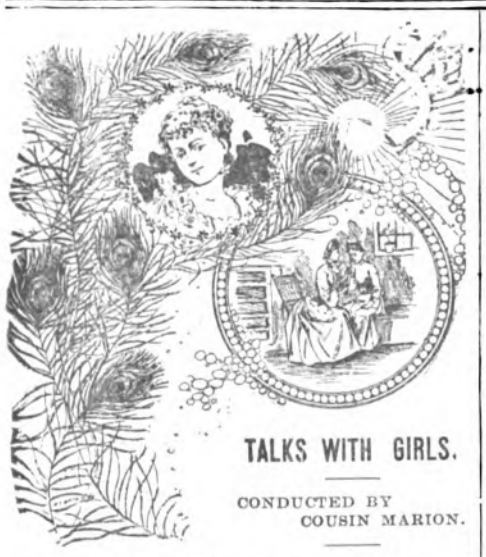


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A BEAUTIFUL UPHOLSTERED PARLOR SUIT
JUST LIKE THIS PICTURE FOR ONLY 12c.

Every child wants to treat her dolly just about right and the nicest articles are none too good for them. We are pleased to present this entirely new idea in **Dolls' Stuffed Furniture.** The set consists of two chairs and a sofa, they come in handsome figured goods in beautifully colored patterns, they are all ready to be sent by mail and filled in with cotton for only 12c., for the three pieces. Just think of it only four cents each for the three articles did you ever hear of such a thing before. We will send the set all filled in for 36c. as the weight of the filling makes the postage that much more expensive.

The children are all delighted and want several sets each, better order a dozen for 85c. and see how quickly they sell. One set including a 3 months' subscription to SUNSHINE only 12c., three sets for 30c., 6 sets 50c., 1 doz. sets 85c., express or postpaid. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

An April greeting to you all, my dears, and may the glad sunshine of spring be in all your hearts. Now let us to business, for there are many of you to talk to individually.

The first from your big pile of letters is from Cousin Julia B., away down at Skidmore, Texas, who wants to know the address of Miss Helen Gould. I fancy a letter addressed to her at New York City would reach her, but I may tell Cousin Julia, that it is needless to ask any favors of Miss Gould as she has more to do now than forty young women could attend to.

Anna, Farmington, Mo.—Write to the Postmaster, Paterson, N. J., for the addresses of silk manufacturers in that town, and from them you can learn what you want to know.

Sallye and Annye, Allington, Texas.—The young man who is secretly engaged to two girls is neither true nor manly, and both of them should inform him of it and have no more to do with him. Thank you very much, Cousin Sallye, for the sweet little poem.

Genevieve, New York City.—Have a little talk with the young man who insists on paying your car fare every evening home, and let him know how you feel about it. He is all right, I should say, if you let him understand your position. Of course he has no right to annoy you with his attentions.

Cousin Marie, of Austin, Ills.—Will send the language of stamps to any of the cousins wanting it. I think the national flower question has been answered.

L. L. S., DeMossville, Ky.—Write to The John Church Company, Cincinnati.

Sarah H., Basin Spring, Texas.—It is quite proper for a Presbyterian preacher to marry a Baptist girl if she will have him. (2) It is just as well not to wear a young man's ring. (3) It is correct enough to accept costly presents from a rich brother-in-law. (4) Yes, an eighteen-year-old girl ought to know whether she loves a man or not. (5) The man must never take the woman's arm in walking.

Ida and Jennie, Concordia, Mo.—Let the young man who loves your sister follow his love. (2) Yes, ask the man who calls on you to call again, if you want him to come. (3) Don't trust the young man who tells you he loves you the first time he meets you.

Daisy, Bayonet, Ga.—(1) Ask your music teacher. (2) Wear your hair in the style most becoming to you, with some reference to prevailing fashion. (3) Don't ask the young man to come in when the family has retired. In the country it is not usual to accommodate a caller over night. (4) Don't address a young man as "My dear William" unless he is kin or your sweetheart. Oh, yes, a girl can very properly pin a bouquet on a young man's coat. But make him keep his distance.

Edith, Kilbourne, Ohio.—I should say girls of fourteen should not go to dances.

Blue Eyes, Johnstown, Pa.—You did perfectly right in resenting the attentions of the married man. He is a scoundrel to be shunned.

Blue Eyes, Springdale, Mo.—Your escort's duty at a dance or elsewhere is to you.

Lilac and Rose, Columbus, Ga.—Tell the young man once or twice how fond you are of opal rings. He will understand unless he is too stupid for any use. (2) It is silly to talk about winning a man's love, and sillier to marry a man thirty years older than you. (3) Better have a chaperone when riding twelve miles at night.

Ruth and Ruby, Grantville, Cal.—Ask the gentleman to lay his hat aside, or take it, just as you please.—(2) A gentleman always tips his hat to a lady. (3) Always present the gentleman to the lady. (4) Yes, you may "keep company" with one young man and write to another, but don't say "keep company." (5) A young lady of thirty-one may receive the attentions of a man of fifty. (6) In the absence of your "best young man" you may accept the company of another to a dance.

S. Crow, Spring Ranche, Neb.—A young lady should not be "affectionate in company."

Margaret, Manitowoc, Wis.—Harper & Brothers, New York, *Golden Days*, Philadelphia, and *Youths' Companion*, Boston. (2) There are no lady detectives, popular in society. (3) A man engaged should be as loyal to his fiancee as if she were his wife. If he isn't she had better not marry him.

Little Rosebud, Modoc, Ills.—Don't marry the rich man because he is rich, nor the poor one because he is poor. Marry the man you love, if you can get him.

Violet Rose, Chicago, Ills.—Do not marry the young man if you feel ashamed of him. Wait a year and see if your mind doesn't change. (2) It is right for a good girl to take care of the wages of the young man she intends to marry. (3) A core maker is a very good trade in good times. (4) June and October are the popular marrying months. (5) Kissing games are no longer fashionable.

B. C., Monette, S. C.—My advice to you is not to attempt story writing until you have read a great many.

Sunbeam, Paducah, Ky.—It is usual for engaged couples to exchange rings.

Laura and Gertrude, Plattsburg, Mo.—It is positively wrong for you to do what your mothers object to.

Alpha, White Pine, Tenn.—The young king of Spain is about fourteen now. (2) Sometimes advertisers furnish their own cuts and sometimes the publisher does. It depends upon contracts.

American Girl, Springfield, Ohio.—There is no call for nurses in the army unless they are trained to some extent. Write to Miss Clara Barton, Washington.

M. C., Plaquemine, La.—Wear a dress to your shoe tops, of almost any color except glaring colors. (2) The young man may give his photograph without being asked for it.

Kate and Helen, Sharpsburg, Pa.—It is very common and vulgar to talk to young men without an introduction to them, except under circumstances that will excuse it. (2) There is nothing to prevent tanning except to keep out of the sun. Any druggist will give you a formula to remove tan.

Two Cousins, Island Lake, N. D.—You can make your "beaus" respect you by being at all times lady-like and dignified. (2) You can reduce stoutness by dieting, but you should consult a physician. (3) Private dances are not at all improper if only proper people are invited. It is better, perhaps, if young girls did not dance the round dances.

M. M., Hazelton, Pa.—Fifteen-year-old girls should not go bicycling with young men. Fifteen-year-old girls should think of something else besides "beaus."

Two Girls, Collinsville, Ills.—It is the lady's place to speak first in meeting a gentleman on the street. (2) In answer to your other questions, let me say that first of all girls should be ladies. If they are they will not need to be asking about kissing and hugging.

Bess, Maudin, H. S.—Ask your druggist. Any black mixture that hasn't acid or grease in it would answer. Have the waist of the costume made loose; it is classic that way.

Queenie, Lee, N. D.—A man may give his affianced a watch very properly. (2) Girls of seventeen are practically women, but they should still be largely governed by their parents in the matter of choosing friends. Do not be in a hurry to marry.

Sorrow, Rosendale, Mo.—Refuse to see the young man again and keep on refusing for one year. If he is still asking for you then, see him and tell him what you think of him. Men are deceivers ever.

Nora Brown, Ovilla, Texas.—Send the sixteen-year-old boy home to his mother.

Pansy, Acorn Ridge, Mo.—A cake-walk is an extravagant style of walking for exhibition purposes, and is so-called because a cake is the prize.

Daisy, Schulenburg, Texas.—It is perfectly proper for a girl to sing in her own house, but some say that a girl should never whistle. Why she should not I am unable to state.

Pansy, Lamoni, Iowa.—Ordinarily a girl might be more safely guided by her brother's advice as to a young man than by any other's. Most brothers think a great deal of their sisters.

Violet, Valatie, N. Y.—A girl that means right never flirts with "show fellows" or any other kind. You are old enough to know what is right.

Brownie, Ilion, N. Y.—Don't worry about the young man. He will come around all right, and if he doesn't, it won't make much difference. He has no right to "get mad."

Now, dears, I must say *au revoir*, and meet you all again in May. Some of you who have not been answered over your own signatures will find answers to your questions in the answers to the others, for, bless your hearts, very many of you want to know about just the same thing. The world may be big, but men and women are the same all over. By by, till May. COUSIN MARION.

ONE—TWO—ONE.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19.)

come so soon? Was this the personality of his dream seen in a "guise of angelhood," leading him out of a dark place into daisied meadows and running brooks?

This was she—Hildegarde Graeme.

* * * * * * *

A month later he saw her again. A tall, heavy, florid, sensual looking piece of humanity stood with her while their baggage was being transferred to an outbound steamer. He had gone down to say good-by to the Deleplanes not knowing that the Graemes were of the party. The electricity of thought quickened his pulse; he was in a new world in her presence. *He felt his blood stir as it had never stirred before!* Her ease of pose, her technique of movement, the inspiration of her eyes, her voice, appealed to him with masterful force. How he hated that man—her husband! The shame, the pity of it all, that she should have made such a sacrifice! Was this man or beast to whom she was tied with iron bonds? Deleplane had told him the story and a long one. The ward of a designing uncle, while yet but half blossomed into womanhood, she had been sold—to the highest bidder!

As the helpless victim of her uncle's treachery she had borne all in silence. The pain, the disgust, the outrage to all her finer feelings had left unhealing scars, but she hid them, and in heroic guise met the claims of life.

One had struck a sympathetic chord in her breast with the "rich melody of his matchless voice," but his path could only touch hers as the wind kisses the rose, and then passes on!

No opthalmoscope were needed to examine the optic nerve and retina of—this misapprehension—*her* husband!

A charcoal burner in Central Mexico might easily have been more of a man than Dorson Graeme. Ah, indeed! Civilization was a word of somewhat uncertain meaning. This was another act in the tragedy of his life—the man whose silent shadow would follow Hildegarde Graeme forever!

Vernon Bernhall repressed the thrilling passion that he felt. He, too, had a cross to bear, and he must bear it manfully. Bear it as he had been bearing it, in stoical silence.

"I can but be a better man for having known her. I can subordinate myself better to duty for that *knowing*. To the touch of *her* hand the tiger in me might become a dove! Good-by, little one, in all the years to come you will rest upon my heart!"

No sound escaped his stern set lips, as with a formal bow he turned away.

Hildegarde's voice spoke thus:

"I, by knowing him, have strength for all my future life! I will no longer groan under the 'wearisome burden of this earthly existence'. To know that he lives—" her thoughts were wafted back to the swift, receding shores of her native land.

Two they had been in the atoms of the universe—they were *One* now—one for all eternity! What did the formal farewell matter! No longer was an unstilled thirst upon her—reaching out through the azured distances soul would hold its daily communion with soul despite the cruel severing of an inevitable fate!

AN industry in the gold trade which employs a large number of hands with no small amount of skill, is the beating of innumerable little square pieces of gold which are used to cover domes, signs, etc. The gold is received in bars an eighth of an inch thick, an inch wide and weighing 240 pennyweights. This is rolled into a ribbon 30 yards long. It is given to the workmen in strips of 7 yards—each of which is cut into 180 pieces. These pieces, protected by fine skins, are placed in a clutch and pounded—the gold as it spreads out being sub-divided until it is of the exact dimensions required. It is beaten down to 200,000th of an inch, and is then rubbed with brine before being placed in skins, so it will not adhere to them. The workmen must know exactly how hard the blows of the hammer must be, and the exact spot they must fall—and although it appears to be easy work, it is in reality an art of a very delicate description.

"OLD GLORY."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE origin of "Old Glory" is possibly not known to all the readers of COMFORT, and they may be glad to see a brief sketch as to how it came into existence.

The Continental Congress appointed a committee to prepare a national standard, and this committee visited General Washington, then at Cambridge, Mass., where a design was adopted by them which consisted of thirteen red and white stripes to represent the thirteen States, with the Cross of St. George in the upper staff corner. A little later a blue field with thirteen stars was used with the original red and white stripes, and a flag of this description was adopted by Congress on June 14th, 1777. The same design is still used—but with the admission of each new State to the Union another star has been added to the original thirteen, on the 4th of July following its admission. There are now, therefore, forty-five stars, and long may they wave!

HEALING THE MULTITUDES.

Thousands of Wonderful Cures Being Made by the Great Healer.

The thousands of miraculous cures being performed by Prof. Weltmer, the great Nevada, (Mo.,) healer, are creating wide-spread attention. It positively makes no difference what your affliction may be nor of how long standing, there is a positive and permanent cure for you in this method. Prof. Weltmer makes the lame walk, the deaf hear and the blind to see. He cures cancers, goitres, consumption, rheumatism and all other diseases known to science. All are eradicated with the same wonderful ease. Mr. F. W. Drummond, Garland, Kansas, was entirely blind; could not tell day from night. Five physicians told him he would never see again. He took three treatments from Prof. Weltmer and his sight was fully restored. Mr. J. W. Fletcher, a wealthy farmer living near Nevada, Mo., was on his deathbed, suffering from kidney and bladder troubles and appendicitis. He was at once raised up and permanently cured in three days by Prof. Weltmer. Mrs. T. L. Higbee, Schell City, Mo., suffered with an internal uterine cancer. Five doctors said she would surely die. Prof. Weltmer restored her health in two weeks. Prof. Weltmer also possesses the remarkable ability to cure people at a distance, and performs cures by this method that are simply astounding. No medicines or appliances whatever are used. This is the only method of treatment that will restore lost vitality and kindred ailments. A copy of the Magnetic Journal; a forty page illustrated magazine, giving a list of the most miraculous cures on record, will be sent free to any sufferer.



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$1.80 NO MONEY DOWN

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To show how quickly it will cure every form of female weakness, displacements, leucorrhœa, suppressed or painful periods, etc. For a short time to introduce it the Hazeline Co., 399 Bressler Block, South Bend, Ind., will send a $1.00 box free by mail to every lady sending her name and address. It gives instant relief and never fails to cure. Write today and give it a trial. It costs you nothing.

Dollars for Pennies.

"THE LIGHT THAT WON'T GO OUT."

Every family in America is ready to buy "The light that sells on sight"—the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK.

It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, discounts kerosene, beats gas, and almost equals electricity or sunlight.

It saves 20 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's the light that won't go out. It's the light in the window for thee.



The Light That Sells On Sight.

The ARC-LIGHT is something new. All need it, all buy it, all like it. To show it means to sell it, and it yields from 100 per cent. to 300 per cent. profit to agents.

The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavit showing that an Arc-Light burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light it gave the first.

A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who bought over 35,000 writes: "The Arc-Light beats all others. It will our lamps, and turns night into day." Every home, store, hotel, saloon, hall, church, or car company will buy the Arc-Light Wick on sight. We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce this wonderful discovery, and we offer for 60 days the following wholesale terms to agents:

Medium or A wick, 5-8 inch wide—the size for house lamps—by mail, sample 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $2.50. Small or E wicks, for hand lamps, lanterns, etc., 3-8 inch wide, sample, 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents per gross, $2.50. Large or B wicks, for table, hall, store, or bracket lamps, 1 inch wide, sample, 5 cents. per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $3.50. Dwick, 11-2 inches wide, for incubators, hall, bracket, or store lamps, sample, 8 cents; 33 cents dozen; $3.50 gross. Argand wicks for parlor lamps, sample, 15 cents; per gross, $3.50. On all orders for $10.00 accompanied by the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send for sample dozen, giving width desired, and see how they go. We can supply you with any style ARC-LIGHT WICK in any quantities, from a single wick to a thousand dozen.

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SPECIAL FREE COUPON OFFER. To all who send six cents and this offer for three months' trial subscription to this paper we will send 2 samples of A B or E wick. Address COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!

The Comical Mirror.



A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums.

By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout: anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.



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A Gold Mine of Interest and Information by Which You Save Dollars.

Prof. Oscar Gleason, the greatest horse owner, trainer and breaker that ever lived in America has at last consented to write a book on the Horse. We have made arrangement to furnish copies of this valuable work to all lovers of horses, and we call your attention to the **great value** of this unparalleled work which should be in every home and stable in the land. **Gleason's Horse Book** is a large handsomely bound book of over **400 pages**, printed on pure **white paper** in **large, clear** type, bound in colored covers and **richly and elegantly illustrated** with **186 full plates and illustrations drawn by special** artists. It is the most complete horse book ever published, produced under the direction of the **United States Government Veterinary Surgeon.** In this book **Prof. Gleason** has **given to the world for the first time** his wonderful methods of **training** and **treating** horses. It contains chapters on **History, Education, Teaching Tricks, How to Buy, Feeding, Breeding, Breaking** and **Taming, How to Detect Unsoundness, Care, Complete Instructions in Proper Horse shoeing** and one **Invaluable Study** of the **Diseases** and **Treatment** of the animal. This part alone is worth many times the value of the book and will save horse owners hundreds of dollars every year. It is a colossal compendium of facts every person ought to know who is in any way interested in horses. Nothing left out. **Concise and Captivating.** Order one to-day and you will never regret it: it is a **whole Library on Horses** in itself. Gleason's Horse Book is found in the libraries of the wealthy and has always been sold as high as $3.00 a volume until now

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IDEAS FROM A CORN-GERM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THAT so simple a thing as a grain of corn should inspire discovery seems surprising, and yet it is a fact that several very recent inventions of the greatest importance depend upon it for their usefulness. One of these is an artificial india-rubber, which is so admirable a substitute that before long it will certainly take the place of the real article to a large extent in a commercial way. It is a horny, elastic body, with many of the properties of caoutchouc.

This remarkable counterfeit of india-rubber is produced by combining corn oil with sulphur. Corn oil, be it understood, is obtained from the corn germ, which represents the vegetative element of the seed. Examined with the eye of science, a corn kernel is a tiny treasure-casket, from which the conjurer Nature hands out an astonishing number of choice gifts to man. As a matter of simple fact, more than a hundred distinct and separate commercial articles are now obtained from this source, one association of factories in this country alone producing fifty-seven.

Up to the present time the oil from corn germ has been regarded as unfit for food, because of a peculiar rancid flavor, but this difficulty has been got rid of by a company in Vienna, which is buying large quantities of corn oil from the United States and shipping it back to this country as "pure olive." In truth, it is a fairly good substitute for the latter, and makes a very acceptable oil for table use and for cooking. This is really a very important discovery, inasmuch as the difficulty hitherto has been to find ways for utilizing the immense quantities of corn oil which are turned out as a by-product of starch and glucose factories. Corn oil will now become an important rival of cottonseed oil, of which 50,000,000 pounds were consumed in the United States last year. None of the prejudice existing against cottonseed oil as food will be felt in regard to corn oil, derived as the latter is from a familiar vegetable; and, unlike the cottonseed product, it is digestible.

What led originally to all these discoveries respecting corn oil was the ascertainment of the fact that the frequent spoiling of shipments of corn meal and hominy was due to the oil in the germs, which turned rancid. So now this mischief is prevented by "degerminating" the grain before the latter is subjected to processes of manufacture. A most ingenious machine has been devised recently, by which the germ of each kernel is clipped out by a separate movement of one of a series of instruments provided for the purpose, and yet the work is done with such rapidity as to make it *profitable*.

A corn-kernel is a little box of starch, the grains of which are so beautifully packed that, when seen under the microscope, they have an appearance resembling a crystalline structure. These grains are the baby food of the embryo plant, which is represented by a "germ" that takes the place of a prize in the package. As a matter of fact, this "germ" is itself merely an oily and highly nutritious envelope for the actual microscopic rudiment of life which it contains. The outer coat of the kernel, or box proper, is of woody material and very hard, for the protection of the precious contents.

The contents of the little box are the source of practically all the starch made and used in the United States for table and laundry purposes. A third employment for this starch, of a commercial importance realized by few, is for the sizing of papers, including writing-papers and wall-papers. There are half a dozen different qualities of starches, the finest, of course, being employed for the table and furnishing material for puddings, custards, the cheaper grades of ice-cream, etc. Baking-powders, too, are composed chiefly of corn starch. Practically all the gum-arabic produced in this country is obtained from corn starch. This product is sold mainly to confectioners, who make from it various kinds of gummy candies, such as marshmallows.

When one licks a postage stamp, he is not apt to give thanks to a corn kernel for saving him labor; yet he might reasonably do so. The mucilage on all postage stamps, as well as on all letter envelopes, is dextrine derived from corn—a gum particularly suitable for this sort of use, being very adhesive and soluble in water. Glucose, by the way, is another substance utilized in immense quantities by confectioners and brewers, and all of it is derived from the corn kernel.

Take a kernel of corn, plant it in the ground and soon the little conjuring box opens of its own accord and yields a number of other products useful to man. The leaves of the grown plant are excellent cattle food, and so are the cobs, when ground to meal. The cobs are utilized also as fuel, three tons of them being reckoned as equal to one ton of hard coal. As for the pith of the stock, it is quite a remarkable substance, being so bibulous as to absorb twenty-five times its own weight of water. This pith has been employed with the greatest success in the construction of American battleships, compressed blocks of it being placed between two walls of armor. When the latter is pierced by a projectile and water enters, the corn pith absorbs the water, instantly swelling up and filling the hole. Corn pith also is used in the manufacture of varnishes, and for making smokeless powder and an excellent substitute for gun-cotton. Indian corn is the source of most of the whiskey and of practically all the alcohol and "cologne spirits" produced in this country.

Before long corn leaves will be used in immense quantities for making paper. They are already employed for this purpose in Vienna, being soaked preliminarily in hot water for some days, after which they are easily separated into three parts—the large veins and ribs, the material between the ribs, and a coarse, pasty stuff. The first are utilized for manufacturing gunny sacks, cordage and certain kinds of cloth; the second furnishes material for a peculiar sort of bread, and the third serves for paper pulp.

It ought to be mentioned in conclusion that corn oil is most valuable for lubricating, for mixing paints, for illumination and for making soaps. The "cake" left over after the oil has been expressed from the germs, supplies a valuable cattle food, rich in meat-forming substances.

Chang Wee's Novel Home.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



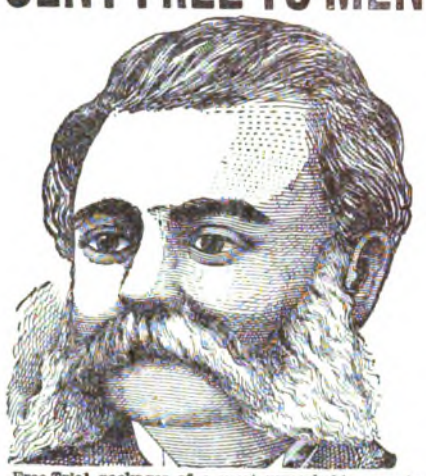
ONE of the oddities of Oakland, California, is a Chinaman named Chang Wee, who makes his living repairing chairs. He is a skillful and industrious workman, makes good wages, and is in a fair way to be a wealthy man. He already owns a lot, in partnership with another Chinese, on East Fourteenth street; but he considers himself too poor to build, or even to keep house, and avoids a tax collector as a deadly enemy to the prudent saver of money. He walks through Alameda and Contra Costa counties following his trade, and spends his time, when not on the road, in a rocking chair. He carries about on his back, as a sample of his work, a large, old-fashioned rocking chair, and uses it, besides, as dining-room, bedroom and kitchen. At mealtimes he is to be seen seated in his chair by the side of the road devouring his rice and prunes, and at night he huddles up in it to sleep.

The authorities objected to his occupying the streets as a resting place at night unless he showed a light, as the law is explicit on the point that obstructions to the public roads shall be illuminated after dark; so Chang procured a lantern and now hangs it, lighted, to the back of his chair when he retires for the night.

Among the Chinese of Oakland Chang Wee is looked upon with suspicion, and his ways are considered as absurd and inconsistent; but little does he care, and he pursues his wandering way unmindful of the scorn of his countrymen.

The leaning tower of Pisa is two hundred and two feet high or eighteen feet shorter than Bunker Hill monument.

SENT FREE TO MEN



Free Trial packages of a most remarkable remedy for sexual weakness are being distributed by the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back or varicocele, can now cure themselves at home.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location, giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that comes from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 558 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages, will be complied with. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated, and the free trial package will enable men to see how easy it is to be cured when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarrassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.

THREE HUNDRED PER CENT. PROFIT. A MONEY MAKER FOR AGENTS.

The ordinary store keeper can feel proud when he makes twenty per cent. on sales; but when you handle the Magical Sponge, which you will notice advertised in another column of this paper, you cannot make less than one hundred per cent. and can easily clear **three hundred per cent. profit.** It is the neatest and greatest seller ever seen and sells itself. Just look at a few orders within a few days and see how it goes. These are not selected orders, but a few picked out of the heap, all haphazard, just to give you an idea and encourage you in taking hold and winning your fortune. Here was Joshua Crosby, East Weymouth, Mass., ordered a gross, February 23rd, and on the 12th of March ordered another. That's nearly $52.00 clear (simply paid Exp. charges out of it), just for a little work done at odd times in a few days. Mrs. J. Cartwel, Milford, Ill., on April 2nd sent for 6 dozen and on the 7th sent for a whole gross. There's thirty-nine dollars cleared up in a few days. Almon L. Reed, Benton Station, Maine, sold a dozen. Annie T. Silvey, Stevensville, Mont., ordered five dozen in less than a month. Mrs. John Abbott, Georgiaville, R. I., had 3 dozen sent her March 19th, and on April 3rd had a whole gross. A. E. Bryson, Oakdale, Pa., a dozen one day and right after 3 dozen, and so on through a whole pile of correspondence and orders, all telling how easy it is to sell the Magical Sponge, and how anxious people are to get it when they see what it will do. Many agents after showing the work of the sponge, easily sell from 3 to one dozen sponges in an office, or a building, while it is no trouble to sell them on the street, in shops, factories and houses as fast as you can handle them. Remember that every sale means large profit and never less than **one hundred per cent.** clear, which just doubles your money, while you can with a little energy and push, make six dollars on every dollar invested. You will notice we give you a sample to start you if you send for a subscription to "COMFORT" to-day.

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GUITAR VIOLIN, MANDOLIN BANJO Self-Taught, Without Notes by Figure Music. 116 Illustrated Catalog for a stamp. E. C. HOWE, 817 Bay State Bldg. Chicago.

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At the Slaughter Price of $3.65 each. These magnificent watches are fine engraved, Gold Alloy, hunting case, fitted with high grade fully jeweled genuine Standard Make, American movement, absolutely guaranteed for 5 years. A watch which will last a life-time and not to be confounded with the ordinary cheap Swiss watch advertised so extensively. AGENTS AND WATCH DEALERS CAN MAKE FROM 25 TO 50 DOLLARS DAILY handling these watches, as they can be sold easy from 15 to 25 dollars each. If you want a real Bargain, cut this out and send us your name and address, stating if you want Ladies' or Gent's size, and we will send you watch by express to examine, and if you find everything satisfactory, pay to Express Agent our "SPECIAL SALE PRICE" $3.65 and it is yours, otherwise order it returned at our expense. If money is sent with order, a beautiful 5 year rolled gold chain will be sent Free with watch. Address

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Instruction Free! You can become a Hypnotist in a few hours time without leaving your home. You can sway the minds of others, control friendship and affection, cure disease and bad habits, gratify your ambitions and produce amusement by the hour. My mammoth Illustrated Lesson or Key to Hypnotism which I send free of charge and postage paid, will tell you all about this marvelous science. It contains hundreds of beautiful and artistic engravings, and shows you just what Hypnotism is and what it will accomplish. Send for it and learn to Hypnotize. Remember, this wonderful book costs you nothing. A postal card will bring it. If you mention this paper, I will also include a large package of other valuable, interesting and profusely illustrated literature, without charge. A chance of a lifetime. Write to-day. Address PROF. L. A. HARRADEN, Jackson, Michigan.



***Safety Razors* FREE**

These improved simplex magnetic safety-razor outfits given **absolutely free.** Only one to a person. Every razor warranted always in order; so finely adjusted impossible to cut or scratch the face. To introduce into every home our Shaving & Complexion Soap, which beautifies, removes pimples, blotches, & all facial eruptions, leaving skin looking fresh & young & delicately perfumed after a shave. We give above razors **absolutely free.** Send 10 cts. silver or stamps for sample cake soap, & we will send one at once securely boxed, prepaid. Each razor made from finest Sheffield steel, & can be used in any position while walking, riding in wagon or cars, or on ship in storm, with perfect ease & safety, & no more effort than it takes to comb your hair. **We make this liberal offer** knowing you will appreciate the present. Show our goods & it will be the means of working up a trade in less than half the time that we could by the old regular way of Newspaper & Magazine advertising.

Home Supply Co. 315 Madison Ave., N.Y. City

LADIES wanted everywhere to mail circulars, samples and copy letters at home. Reply with stamped envelope. PEERLESS COMPANY, South Bend, Indiana.

PIMPLES removed in 4 days, blackheads in 6 days. Perfectly harmless. Never fails. Send 10 cts. silver. SPECIFIC REMEDY CO., Dept. K, Cleveland, O.

Marriage PAPER FREE, many very rich. EASTERN AGENCY 54, Bridgeport, Ct.

BED WETTING CURED. Box FREE. MO. REMEDY CO., St. Louis, Mo.

FREE TO EXPECTANT MOTHERS Full instruction about painless childbirth, etc. Avoid suffering, prevent danger and insure a rapid recovery. DR. J. H. DYE MED. INST., BUFFALO, N. Y.

RUPTURE HOME CURE AT SMALL COST. No pain, danger, operation or detention from work. A new method that heals and binds the broken muscles and knits them so securely together that the cure is permanent. Send for Illustrated Book fully describing this marvelous and certain cure for rupture. The book is mailed free.

VARICOCELE Thousands of men are wearing suspensories, compressors, etc., and obtaining no relief. I cure Varicocele by a new and certain method. Write for full description. This disease is often mistaken for rupture. Book mailed free to all. DR. W. S. RICE, Box C-1, ADAMS, N. Y.

QUICK-EDGE

For Razors and all Tools that Require a Razor Edge



Quick-Edge will sharpen the dullest Razor in two minutes and give it a fine smooth cutting edge. If **Quick-Edge** is used your razor will always be sharp and never need honing. It makes old razors good as new, and is warranted not to injure the finest razor in the least. Don't pay 25 cents to have your razor honed when a cake of **Quick-Edge** will keep it in perfect order for years.

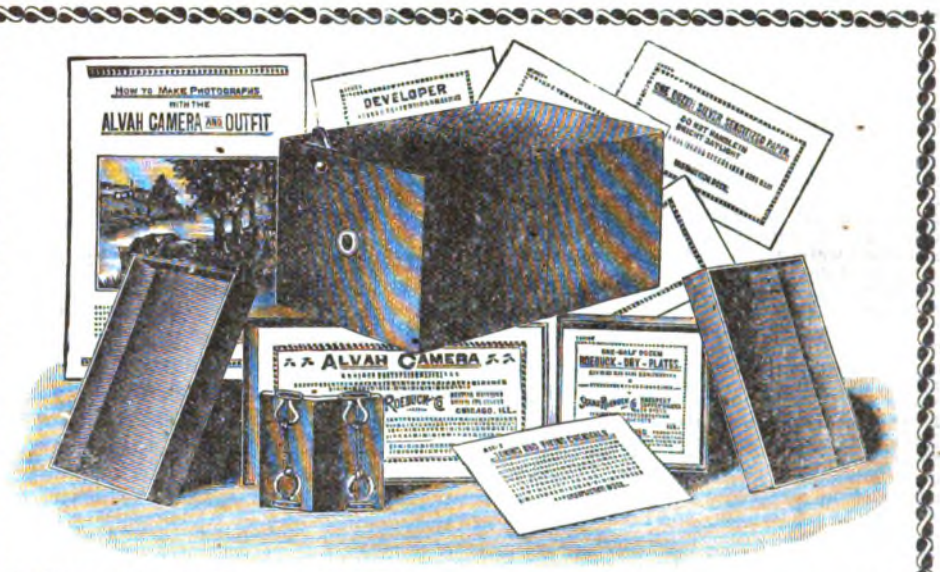
Quick-Edge will put a fine smooth cutting razor edge on any tool in one-tenth the time it takes to sharpen it in any other way. Razors and all edge tools will hold their edge three times as long, and cut better. Why? Because **Quick-Edge** is a scientific preparation and makes a smooth strong edge that will cut well, and wear well. Every man who shaves needs **Quick-Edge**, every family, every shop, and every factory has some edge tools that needs **Quick-Edge**. Anyone can use it successfully, and full directions come with every cake. The price is 15 cents a cake. Agents can sell it to almost every man, and at nearly every house. If you sell 100 cakes a day, your profit is $8.75. Many agents are doing as well. If you need work order a dozen or a gross and try the business; if you do not need work, order a cake, and know the luxury of having a razor, a knife or other edge tool always in order, sharp and ready for use.

Price: One cake, **15 cents, postpaid**; one dozen cakes, **$1.00 postpaid**; one gross cakes, **$6.00** by express. Address, GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

This $1 Alvah Camera Free...

A PRACTICAL WORKING CAMERA WITH OUTFIT OF MATERIALS FOR TAKING, MAKING AND DEVELOPING FIRST-CLASS PICTURES
Given Away Free on these Easy Conditions.

THIS CAMERA AND OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING—We ask no money for it, but will give it to you free as a present for a slight effort on your part to increase our circulation. **Send us 3 subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose with your letter the seventy-five (75) cents which will be payment in full for the subscriptions, and the camera and complete outfit, as here illustrated and described, will be sent you by mail or express** (at our option) **prepaid. All charges paid by us.**



THE ALVAH CAMERA Takes Photographs, Landscapes—in fact anything—making a fine 2x2 picture, as good as many of the high-priced cameras. THE ALVAH comes with a complete outfit securely packed as follows—so that you are not compelled to buy an expensive lot of materials before you can take and develop pictures:

1 ALVAH CAMERA — 1 PACKAGE HYPO — 1 DEVELOPING TRAY — 1 TONING TRAY
1 BOX DRY PLATES — 1 PRINTING BACK — 1 PACKAGE DEVELOPER — 1 INSTRUCTION BOOK
1 PACKAGE SILVER PAPER — 1 PACKAGE FIXING POWDER — 1 PACKAGE RUBY PAPER

YOU CAN EASILY GET THREE SUBSCRIBERS. In these hard times many would feel reluctant about paying 50 or 75 cents or $1.00 for a year's subscription to our paper, although there is no question that it is well worth that amount to anyone; but hardly any person will hesitate a moment over the trifling sum of 25 CENTS when it will purchase A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to so valuable and entertaining a paper as COMFORT. At this very low price you need only to show a sample copy of our paper and you will secure three and even more subscribers right in your immediate neighborhood. **Every member of the family is interested in COMFORT.**

HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS WONDERFUL OFFER. We know that COMFORT is the **best paper of its kind published, and we want to introduce it into every household in the country.** We intend to more than double our subscription list in 1899 and take this unique and liberal method of doing it. **Everyone now a days is interested in photography.** Haven't you often wanted a camera to take the pictures of your friends and loved ones and the familiar scenes about the house? With the ALVAH you can do this, and we give you the opportunity of obtaining this up-to-date CAMERA FREE OF CHARGE. All you need to do is to send us three subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose the 75 cents payment for same and the CAMERA AND OUTFIT will be **sent to you prepaid.**

THE ALVAH CAMERA retails regularly at $1.00, and is as good as any of the cameras that are sold at $1.00 without the developing outfit. But we have made arrangements with one of **the largest camera manufacturers in the United States** to supply us with these cameras, at a figure which is a mere trifle above the net cost of the camera to the manufacturer **We give our readers the benefit of our advantageous contract.**

THE ALVAH CAMERA USES REGULAR GLASS PLATES (not films). **It comes with all the necessary articles and materials** and everything is explained in the instruction book, "HOW TO MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS."

FOR 55 CENTS CASH (postage stamps taken) **we will send the ALVAH CAMERA AND OUTFIT to any address prepaid, together with COMFORT, for one year.** We make this offer to give everyone a chance. If it is not convenient for you to secure three subscribers **send us 55 cents and get the camera and outfit and our splendid paper for a full year.**

ANYONE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER. If you are already a subscriber send us the 55 cents and we will extend your subscription one year from the date your present subscription expires, besides sending you the entire camera and outfit. **Address**

(Subscription Dept.) **COMFORT, Augusta, Me.**

A Nation of Oat-Eaters.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



"WE ARE getting to be a nation of oat-eaters," said Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson a day or two ago. "One of the most difficult things in the world is to persuade a people to adopt a new kind of food. That is the trouble with the introduction of our Indian corn in Europe, where maize is considered only good for beasts. In the same way, we Americans regarded oats as fit only for horses up to thirty odd years ago.

"During the period of the Civil War rice became very scarce, owing to interference with its production in the South. It so happened that a young Scotchman in this country took a notion that this shortage in the cereal crop might be compensated for by introducing oats as human fare. In Scotland, of course, oatmeal is a national dish, and this hard-headed person made up his mind that what was good for Scotchmen ought to be good for Americans. Accordingly he obtained control of a small mill in Ohio, and converted it into a mill to make oatmeal.

"This was the beginning of what has since grown to be an immense industry—namely, the manufacture of oatmeal. Of course, the new food acquired popularity very slowly, but it grew steadily in the appreciation of the people, and wise physicians, recognizing its extraordinary excellence as a diet, began to recommend it, particularly for children. Thus the production kept on increasing until in 1888 we exported 4,329,292 pounds of oatmeal. In 1896 we exported 47,310,251 pounds. That seems wonderful, does it not? Let me surprise you, then, still more by the information that in 1898 this country exported 85,500,270 pounds of oatmeal!

"There you have almost a doubling of the export in a twelvemonth. If you go back to 1884, you will find that we actually *imported* 1,195,948 pounds of oatmeal. About two-thirds of all the oatmeal now produced in the United States goes to Great Britain and one-fifth is bought from us by the Netherlands. I have not the figures in detail for 1898, but in 1897 we shipped 33,047,702 pounds of oatmeal to Great Britain, 9,873,138 pounds to the Netherlands, 2,891,132 pounds to Germany, 174,125 pounds to Austro-Hungary, 124,240 pounds to Denmark, 145,500 pounds to Norway and Sweden, 83,750 pounds to Belgium, 62,750 pounds to Italy and 21,560 pounds to Russia.

"The amazing growth of the popularity of oats as human food in this country is due to an increasing familiarity with its value in the diet. It contains a very large proportion of the substance that makes muscle and blood. This substance we call nitrogenous matter. You may consider any kind of cereal as being made up of nitrogenous matter and carbonaceous matter, the latter being a fuel or heat maker. In wheat flour the nitrogenous matter is to the carbonaceous matter as 1 is to 6 1-2; in oats it is 1 to 7; in barley and rye it is 1 to 8 1-2; in Indian corn it is1 to 10. All you have to do is to look at these figures, in order to ascertain the comparative values of the different grains as food.

"Wheat, you see, comes first, having the largest proportion of muscle-forming substance. Oats, however, are next to wheat in this respect, and very close up. A laboring man can do a day's work on oats and nothing else; they furnish him with all that his body requires in the way of fuel and repair of tissue. He can do the same thing on wheat bread, and the soldier in the ranks, no matter how much he may grumble about hardtack, can fight his best on that diet. Hardtack, of course, is composed of flour and water simply.

"A great deal has been said lately as to enlarging the market abroad for cornmeal. If this can be accomplished, it will be of great advantage to the United States, inasmuch as we produce about 2,000,000,000 bushels of Indian corn annually. This cereal is readily transformed into meats, dairy products, starch, glucose, high wines, and various other marketable articles. It is the cheapest raw material produced by the farmer. However, the percentage of muscle-forming matter which it contains is low and therefore it cannot suitably replace grains that are richer in nitrogen. The laborer of Europe who can afford to have only one kind of grain on his table is able to work all day on barley-bread, black rye bread, oat cake, or oat porridge; but he cannot accomplish the same results with cornmeal alone.

"On the other hand, the well-to-do European who can afford to put on his table meats, fish or cheese, to supply the requisite nitrogen, finds the American corn-bread a valuable addition to his diet. He does so, that is to say, if he can be induced to relinquish his prejudice against maize. This indicates the direction in which we should try to push our Indian corn abroad. We should try to introduce it not among the laboring classes, but among the well-to-do.

"The lack of nitrogen in corn is illustrated by the fact that while you can fatten a steer on maize after he has attained his growth, you cannot grow the young animal on corn. A cow will give plenty of milk when fed on oats, barley, rye, or wheat, but if you give her corn only, she will stop yielding milk and will promptly fatten.

"Oats are destined to become steadily more popular in this country as food for human beings. As I have said, we are becoming a nation of oat-eaters. It is a good sign and promises well for the future of the country and its people."

Silk from Spiders.



AT a certain ball in South Africa not very long ago, the hostess wore a dress made of spider's silk. More than a hundred years ago, a French scientist made an attempt to utilize the silk spun by a spider, and since then several experiments have been made in that line. One man succeeded in having a pair of socks and a pair of mittens made from the silk. These articles were carefully examined and pronounced genuine, but as reported, "the game was hardly worth the candle." It took ninety spider threads to equal one silk thread in strength, and one hundred and eighty to make a thread strong enough to sew with. It takes twice as many spiders as silk worms to make a given amount of silk and it would have taken twenty-eight thousand cocoons to make one pound of silk. An English manufacturer obtained some large tropical spiders and kept them in a warm room into which he caused a liquid composed of chloroform, ether and alcohol to evaporate. The result was satisfactory in regard to the production of the silk, but as it brought the cost of the silk up to one hundred and fifty dollars a pound, it didn't seem to be favorable to the manufacture of silk for dresses.

The reflection from a flash of lightning travels nearly two million times faster than the sound of the report.

Russia is a huge farm, comprising one-seventh of the land surface of the globe, and one-twenty-sixth of its total area.

The first newspaper published in America was the Boston News Letter, established in 1704. It was a half sheet of paper, twelve inches by eight, with two columns on a page. It lived seventy-two years.

George Washington after his first retirement in 1783, became convinced of the defective nature of the working animals employed in the agriculture of the Southern States. He set about remedying the difficulty by introducing mules to be used instead of horses. The King of Spain sent him some mules from the royal stables in Madrid, and Washington set about breeding these animals. This is practically the origin of the mule in the United States.

WE ARE

Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness 'feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say $25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address,

G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

CONSTIPATION

"I have gone 14 days at a time without a movement of the bowels, not being able to move them except by using hot water injections. Chronic constipation for seven years placed me in this terrible condition; during that time I did everything I heard of but never found any relief; such was my case until I began using CASCARETS. I now have from one to three passages a day, and if I was rich I would give $100.00 for each movement; it is such a relief." AYLMER L. HUNT, 1689 Russell St., Detroit, Mich.

CANDY CATHARTIC

Cascarets

TRADE MARK REGISTERED

REGULATE THE LIVER

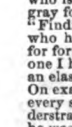
Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good, Do Good, Never Sicken, Weaken, or Gripe, 10c, 20c, 50c.

... CURE CONSTIPATION. ...

Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago, Montreal, New York. 322

RUBBER GOODS of all kinds. Special Novelties. Cat'g free. HAZELTINE CO., Toledo, O.

I USED IT



HANDSOME MUSTACHE OR LOVELY HAIR Grown with our TURKISH HAIR GROWER in three weeks or money refunded. No more bald heads or smooth faces. We warrant every package and offer $1000 forfeit this is the quickest, surest, also harmless. Full treatment, 25c., 3 for 50c. Avoid dangerous imitations. TREMONT MANUF'G CO., E7, STATION A, BOSTON, MASS.

8,000 are very anxious for some one to MARRY Many wealthy; others have lands & homes; Lists, &c., free. FAITHFUL MESSENGER, Chicago.

BED-WETTING CURED Sample Free. Dr. F. E. MAY, Bloomington, Ill.

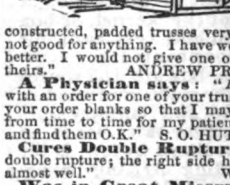
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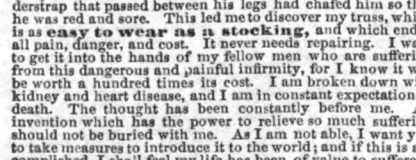
Are the latest thing out for fun or use. These wonderful eye protectors are gotten up in such a strong manner that they will be found very useful to protect the eyes from the sun or from dirt or any substance that is liable to fly into or strike the eye. There is no glass to break but they are so constructed that you look through them same as through the lens of a camera. The frames are very strongly made of heavy wire and the artistically colored **revolving eyes** can be made to turn in every conceivable direction, so that the most grotesque and comic expression can be made with them when on the face. By simply turning to right or left, or sideways, the cross-eyed dandy or cute clown can be instantly imitated and bushels of fun be had. Or, as will be seen by the reverse side of the rubber hung centers, they are plain, useful, every day spectacles. They are having a great sale. Will send a pair **free** with a 10c. three months' subscription to "NATIONAL FARMER." Agents make money with them. Ask for terms when you send for trial pair.



NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.



MIZPAH PESSARY *An unexcelled Uterine Supporter.* The center tube holds it in position, and it cannot become misplaced. It is soft, light, and comfortable, easily placed in position, and just as easily removed. Ask your Druggist, or send for descriptive circular to WALTER F. WARE, 512 Arch St., Phila.



56 PIECES FREE Full-Size, for Families.

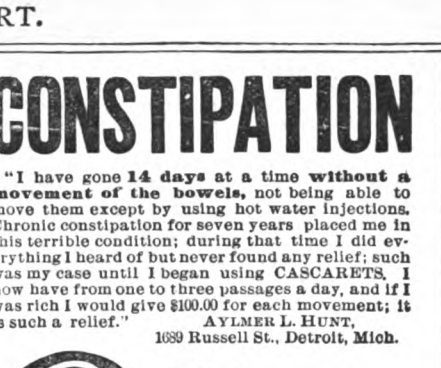
There is no fake about this; send your address at once. Every person answering this advertisement can get a Handsomely Decorated Set, **absolutely free**—we mean it. There is no trick, no juggling with words, nothing but what is honest. Our offer is in black & white, no misrepresentation of any sort; everybody can receive & take advantage of it, & we positively will not go back on it no matter what it costs us. We wish to put our paper on top, & will do anything to get it in the lead quickly. It is one of the best & most interesting Fashion, News & Story Papers in existence. You can prove all we say, the absolute TRUTH, if you will send us **10c.** silver or **15c.** stamps to cover expense of postage, mailing, addressing & packing, & we will send you the paper for three months free. Every one can have their choice of Breakfast, Dinner or Tea Set Free. All Sets carefully boxed & packed at our expense.

POPULAR FASHIONS, NEW YORK CITY, DEPT. 172 A, P. O. BOX 2617.

How to Cure Rupture.

(Copyrighted.)

It gives us pleasure and satisfaction to write these words of hope to the ruptured. Not what caused but what will cure your rupture is what we wish to write about. The most common are, Ventral, Scrotal, Umbilical, and Femoral. If rupture can be returned to natural position it is called reducible; if not, it is irreducible. This last is caused by wearing a poor truss, or going without one. Don't deceive yourself by saying, my rupture is small, no need of my reading this. Death from strangulation of Hernia comes in nearly every case from small ruptures. No others so dangerous, no other the cause of so many painful surgical operations. Nothing else causes a man to walk day by day so near death. It allows one intestine to come down; this causes strangulation from the great pressure required to move its contents. You have suffered for years, tried every device, spent many dollars—the result has been failure.



The old style truss is now gone forever, except in a few cases where some one has a lot on hand, and persuades a sufferer to buy one who does not know the difference. When the elastics were introduced, many exclaimed here is at last a perfect trnss, but disappointment followed, because all dependence was placed in elastic webbing or belts. You know that elastic soon rots; then, if proper care is given, the belt must be readjusted every day; it can never be two days alike. How can that cure? It is a waste of space to tell you about old style elastic or spring trusses, or how you have suffered; belts and straps pulled so tight that many say, I would rather die than stand the torture. So they risk their lives and live in misery without a truss.

To Effect a Cure all know that the rupture must be held easy, comfortable, natural, the same as if no rupture existed. That is what our appliance does. It is our great good fortune to have a truss; to compare it with others would be like comparing an electric light with a tallow candle. Not an instrument of torture with ropes, pulleys, elastics, etc., but a new idea that **has been proven** to be far ahead of any known appliance. A wonderful invention, and a blessing to mankind.

It cures because it holds everything in a natural position, giving nature a chance to repair the damage that has been done. Nature heals a broken bone, or bruise, or cut, if given the right chance; so it will a rupture. The inventor of this truss is Rev. J. Hayden, chaplain of the 17th Maine regiment, who is well remembered by those who wore the blue and the gray for his many acts of kindness. This is what he says:—"Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an older brother, who had the same trouble. He said, 'I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent over $300 for trusses, and the one I have now is the best I ever had; it cost me $15 (it was an elastic truss), but it is breaking, and I must get another." On examination, I found an elastic strap around him, with every stitch of the webbing printed on his body, while the understrap that passed between his legs had chafed him so that he was red and sore. This led me to discover my truss, which is as **easy to wear as a stocking,** and which ended all pain, danger, and cost. It never needs repairing. I want to get it into the hands of my fellow men who are suffering from this dangerous and painful infirmity, for I know it will be worth a hundred times its cost. I am broken down with kidney and heart disease, and I am in constant expectation of death. The thought has been constantly before me. An invention which has the power to relieve so much suffering should not be buried with me. As I am not able, I want you to take measures to introduce it to the world; and if this is accomplished, I shall feel my life has been of value to sufferers. As I have reflected on the miseries of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and consider that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure-fitting, never-failing remedy, amply proven and tested in my own and other cases, and which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate, I feel that it would be a giant wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me: for, **as I value my honor in this world, and my soul in the next,** I unhesitatingly declare that I regard a failure in any instance as impossible."

Our Terms: No Cure, no Pay. Perfectly confident of our curing warrants us to adopt the above terms; it is fair and honest. We know from actual experience that many people always write for something they can get for nothing. Many write who are not ruptured; they want, for nothing, something they can sell to some afflicted person for $10 or $15; while others have no gratitude in them, and never repay a favor. To keep such parties from bothering us we decided on this plan: Send us $1 for single or $2 for double, to be held by us as a small guarantee of good faith; we then send you a truss to be worn by you, but the truss is ours, and we only lend it. When you are cured you are to promptly send us back the truss and $4. Many who get cured say, we want to keep the truss. To all we reply, we will sell it to you at a fair price, the charge being according to the work done, and we will not exceed $10. It takes from sixty days to six months to cure. The terms are fair, and we will not deviate from them.

You can be Cured Free. Send us with your order the names of all the ruptured people you know; when we send our truss to six of them we will refund your $1 and give you the truss. We will not, without your permission, tell who sent us the names, or as you will know it to be all we claim, you can, truthfully recommend it. There will be no doubt of your getting six orders. You can send the amount of money less the $1 you have paid us, and thus get yours free.

What We Claim. A truss that cures, worn day and night, needs no changing, no matter what your position is, you do the hardest work the same as if you had no rupture. Easy as a stocking. For simplicity, comfort, durability, and effectiveness cannot be equalled. Cool and comfortable in warm weather. No parts to chafe, no understraps, nothing to absorb foul odor from the body, always in place, always comfortable, always healing. **Will last a hundred years.** Our truss is for men, women, children, and infants, and fits all kinds of ruptures. Fleshy people will find a great relief. No hot bands around you. The only truss that women and infants can wear and be easy and cleanly.

Will you, after reading these few plain and truthful statements, continue in misery with a poor truss, or risk your life by going without? Dare you lay this aside without giving it a trial, which costs you nothing? Do you think it like humbug advertisements you have seen? If so, write to the postmaster, the bankers, any business man, or city official. We own and occupy one of the largest blocks in this city.

Men, women, and children use the same measure blanks. The U. S. Government allowed Rev. J. Hayden a patent, No. 400,454. Is not that alone sufficient proof that it is a wonderful invention? Send for book of testimonials or circulars. We have cured many, we can cure you if you will let us. It costs a great many dollars for each line of this ad. each time it appears, so we have to be brief as possible. We could fill this whole paper with testimonials. Here are a few:

The Postmaster says: "I have examined the letters from which these testimonials were taken, and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Surehold truss." E. T. MAYBERRY.

"*Westbrook, Me.* This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Alexander Speirs, and consider him responsible for any contracts he may make, and strictly reliable." KING S. RAYMOND, *Mayor.*

"*Westbrook, Me.* This is to certify that Mr. Alexander Speirs is a large real estate holder in this city, and is considered responsible for any contracts he may make." WILLIAM M. LAMB, *City Clerk.*

"*Westbrook, Me.* This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Alexander Speirs, and consider him perfectly responsible. He owns and occupies the block shown in the picture, one of the largest in the city." RUSSELL D. WOODMAN, *Treas. Westbrook Bank.*

Suffered 16 Years. Now Cured. "Dear Sirs: Accept my many thanks. I think your truss is the only one that is sure cure. I consider myself cured by your truss after suffering for sixteen years, trying many different kinds." J. S. POTTER, *Atlanta, Ga.*

Saved from the Knife. "I had used every kind of a truss I could get hold of, and found none that would hold rupture in place, it being very low down, and the doctors told me that I could get help only by an operation, and which I had decided to have performed. I suffered so much from it, and had gone so far as to make arrangements with parties to perform the operation, when I happened by chance to get hold of one of your books. I looked it over and decided to try once more, and sent you my measure for a truss, which was received in due time. I put it on and it fitted like a charm, and has held me all right, and rupture has not been down since I put it on. I wear it all the time without any inconvenience. I should hardly know I had a truss on without I think of it. I can sleep or bend in any manner without the least inconvenience. I think my rupture is healed and all right, and that I could leave it off all right, but prefer to wear it longer." EDWARD SNOW, *Snowville, N. H.*

Cured in Five Months. "*Dear Sirs:* I have worn your truss five months and have taken it off now, and I am cured of rupture. Your truss is the best I ever used; it is better than you recommend it. Other firms praise their ill-



constructed, padded trusses very highly, but they are really not good for anything. I have worn them for years and got no better. I would not give one of yours for one hundred of theirs." ANDREW PROPER, *Glencoe Mills, N. Y.*

A Physician says: "*Dear Sirs:* I send you herewith an order for one of your trusses. Please send me some of your order blanks so that I may order from your company from time to time for my patients. I have tried your goods and find them O.K." S. O. HUTSON, M.D., *Beaufort, S. C.*

Cures Double Rupture. "*Dear Sirs:* I had a double rupture; the right side has healed up, and the left is almost well." WM. WILSON, *Doubs, Md.*

Was in Great Misery—Cured. "*Gentlemen:* I have never been troubled any since I put on your truss. I could not say enough in your praise. I can work as hard as ever I could. I do not know that I am cured. I have been afraid to take the truss off yet for fear that I am not. I was so poorly before I began to wear your truss that a whole week would pass and I would not be able to do scarcely anything. I could not ride a mile in a carriage without great misery and being in great danger. Now I can ride with ease." Mrs. NORA CLEM, *Kent, Iowa.*

Cured my Boy. "*Gentlemen:* Your truss has cured my boy when no other would, and in the same time you said it would. I am more than thankful to you for it. Every word you said was true. No need of any child suffering when they can be cured so easily." Mrs. MARY YARNELL, *Middleton, Ohio.*

SPECIAL ORDER BLANK. ©

ALEX. SPEIRS—*Dear Sir:* Send at once one of your Surehold Trusses. Enclosed find $1.00. When I am cured of my rupture I agree to promptly send you $4.00 more, and return the Truss you send me. **If I am not cured or fitted, I promise to return Truss on receipt of $1.00.**

Name .....

Street, or P. O. Box, if you have one .....

Post Office .....

County ..... State .....

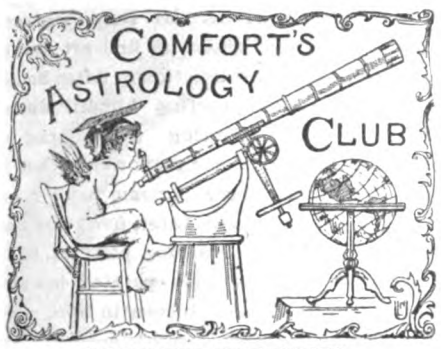
For Double Rupture send $2.00 with this blank. The prices named are by express. If you want them by mail securely wrapped from observation, and safe delivery guaranteed, send 40 cts. extra for single, 50 cts. extra for double.



1. How many inches do you measure around the body on a line with the rupture?
2. Are you ruptnred on right side, left side, both sides, or navel?
3. About how large is the rupture?
4. How near the scrotum is it?
5. Does it descend into the scrotum?
6. Can you reduce or return it easily?
7. What is your height?
8. What is your weight?
9. What is your age?
10. What is your occupation?
11. How long have you been ruptured?
12. Mark as near as possible, on picture, where your rupture is.

Our Reference: Any banker, business man, city official, mercantile agency, postmaster, or express agent.

ALEX. SPEIRS, 90 Main St., Westbrook, Maine



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



IN May, the Moon reaches the place of the Sun, forming the New Moon, where she begins her new journey around the Zodiac, at about thirty minutes past noon of the 9th of the month. The figure set for that moment of time at Washington, the seat of our government, shows the first degrees of Virgo rising and the last degrees of Taurus culminating. The conjoined Sun and Moon are therefore only a half hour past the south meridian in the 9th house. Neptune has not yet come to the meridian but is in the 10th house nearly opposite to Saturn who with Herschel is in the 4th house. Jupiter is in the 3rd; Mars is in the rising part of the heavens in the 12th house in trine with Venus in the 8th also in trine with Herschel in the 4th house.

Mercury is ruler of the scheme and is found on the cusp of the 9th house in trine with the Ascendant and in trine with Saturn in the 4th house. The Lunation forms while both luminaries are separating from adverse rays of Mars and Jupiter and has no evil rays; while Mercury the ruler of the figure is without affliction from any heavenly body. This figure indicates our recent passage through some minor squalls upon the national sea, some evidences of strife between capital and labor, and excitement of unusual character in matters affecting our financial world and probably ecclesiastical connections and detriment to our shipping and railway values.

The great malefics in the 4th are not promising of good to our agricultural interests, being likely to give us some harm to growing crops either through cold and gloomy or stormy atmospheres particularly near the latter days of the lunation or from excessive rains or floods in the northern sections of our country. Mars in the 12th indicates harm to prisoners and cautions keepers of places of detention to be on the lookout for violence from inmates. Postal authorities should take unusual precautions for avoidance of loss of property or detriment to the mails through disorder or violence, especially in our southeastern regions or possessions. We shall hear of much merry making and sporting in our southwestern regions, increased production of wines and luxuries of life.

Mercury on the 9th and the lunation falling on the 9th, give strong indications of an extraordinary increase in travel to foreign countries. Mercury is the herald of a busy period for artists, scientists, and literary and church men; shows advancement in arts and sciences, new inventions and the spread of education and civilization in our southwestern sections.

The figure, for own country is on the whole quite favorable, bearing out as it does our general progress and advancement shown in the more important figure for the Sun's Ingress in March.

Mars in Leo is evil for France and is likely to show the continuance of strife and disorder in that storm-tossed country. Political excitement runs high in France, Italy and Spain, where fires and crimes run a kind of epidemic.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR MAY, 1899.

MAY 1—Monday. The month begins with a fair day for most of the affairs of life, though a greater degree of success than usual is due for transactions with manufacturers and persons in the mechanical callings, also for chemical experiments; being peculiarly favorable for such persons as were born about the last days of March or September, of past years.

2—Tuesday. This day gives favorable conditions for vigorous prosecution of all the elegant occupations and fine arts; for dealings in fancy wares and furnishings, jewelry etc.; urge musical and dramatical engagements and studies and urge thy suit with the fair sex. Have care, however, in these days and especially during the forenoon of this day, to avoid disputes or quarrels of all kinds; look out for fires and explosions, and particularly avoid any unusual excitement if the heart be constitutionally afflicted or has shown any unusual disturbance in the last six or eight months. We are still in the midst of conditions which conduce to increased combustibility in nature and which promote destruction of values by fires and violent explosions. Let all have care in this respect, especially if born about the last days of January, April, July or October of past years. Prevailing conditions for several weeks have been such as render probable a marked increase of blood troubles, scrofulous annoyances, boils, carbuncles, and eruptions generally, and we shall be wise if we have availed ourselves promptly of the preventives and correctives which science affords. The afternoon and evening of this day are recommended for mental labors and literary undertakings of consequence; urge correspondence and the adjustment of accounts.

3—Wednesday. Actively pursue thy several avocations during all this day, giving preference, however, to the forenoon for dealings in real estate, boots and shoes, dyes, wool, coal and all kinds of building materials. Artists and musicians have more than the ordinary executive abilities in their special callings, especially if born about the last days of March, July, September, or November, of past years, and such persons should diligently prosecute their several callings.

4—Thursday. Let every moment of this day be improved; pursue studies and all the literary avocations; journey, and push all kinds of business, especially with lawyers, merchants, tradesmen, printers, publishers and all ingenious persons; literary efforts will in general be successful; do all important correspondence, engage help and make each moment count; musical and dramatic entertainments give unusual pleasure and satisfaction in the evening and social matters are happily affected; seek advancement or favor from thine employer in the last hours of the day, when also apply to public officials for benefits of a public nature.

5—Friday. Ask no favors from thy landlord in the forenoon nor look for benefits from dealings with contractors or any persons engaged in the dirty avocations of life; indecision and forgetfulness will be common faults of the early hours; but as the noon hour is approached conditions mend rapidly and for many hours very favorable influences prevail, which tend to promote success in all honorable undertakings; particular stress is put upon the suggestion that all literary labors be pushed to the utmost and that commercial enterprises be inaugurated with vigor.

6—Saturday. Improve this day fully for all the ingenious and mechanical trades and avocations, and especially for chemical experiments and processes; deal in cattle, metals, and with chemists, founders, physicians, tailors, and military men, also electricians, druggists, inventors of machinery and electrical appliances; take the time for dealing in ornamental goods, wearing apparel, furnishings and all things pertaining to the pleasures and gratifications of mankind.

7—Sunday. A most excellent day for intellectual and religious matters; the mind will be especially active and capable of close application; the judgment is acute and clear, and extemporaneous speaking should abound in rhetoric, good logic, and elegant sentiment. It is rare that so favorable combinations occur in such force within the limits of a day.

8—Monday. Be circumspect in act and deed with reference to all speculative ventures; hold fast the purse-strings; defer making contracts, particularly with landlords or concerning houses or lands; and bridle the tongue as the evening draws nigh, when also see that no risks of fire are taken, being especially careful in handling combustibles and explosives.

9—Tuesday. The middle hours of this day are the best; in them urge all correspondence and literary matters generally; sign contracts other than concerning real estate, engage servants, travel, deal with teachers and divines, lawyers and judges and all engaged in the intellectual pursuits; do not, however, have any dealings with usurers or persons in public office or with the very aged.

10—Wednesday. This day promises but little of moment; do not expect any favor from public officers, railway officials, inventors, nor persons noted for eccentricities of dress or habits, especially as the day draws to its close.

11—Thursday. Another of the very favorable days of the month; the forenoon is peculiarly fortunate for surgeons, military men, cutlers, and all who deal in or employ sharp instruments or fire in their avocations; it is good also for compounding drugs and chemicals, for fine machine work, weaving, painting and all musical execution; for workers in wax, embroiderers, milliners, dressmakers, and all art workers; the drama will be more enjoyable than usual in the evening.

12—Friday. Ask no favors from thy landlord in the early hours nor look for much benefit from dealing with contractors or any persons engaged in the dirty avocations of life; give preference to the middle hours for urging all correspondence, for dealings with booksellers, publishers, stationers and all engaged in the intellectual pursuits; use the afternoon for buying goods for trade and having transactions with banks and persons of wealth and station.

13—Saturday. Usurers and money lenders will prove expensive and disagreeable if appealed to on this day, and old persons generally are to be avoided; don't make any beginning of magnitude in the forenoon hours, nor be surprised if thou art baffled greatly in thy undertakings.

14—Sunday. Rather an unpromising day; let quarrels and contentions be guarded against, nor should pulpit utterances be aggressive or offensive, since they would be more likely thus to hurt than to help.

15—Monday. Have particular care in all commercial transactions in the forenoon hours; the time will develop much fraud and deception in banking circles; sign no money obligations of consequence and be very cautious about extending credit; and postpone transacting business with lawyers; the afternoon is better than the morning particularly for transactions with persons in the elegant pursuits.

16—Tuesday. The day after the morning hours should be improved with vigor, provided judgments be not too hastily formed—a day for sharp and incisive will rather than sound judgment—rashness and combativeness will be especially observable; give preference to the afternoon hours for the most important transactions of the day; especially if they be concerning money or commercial ventures.

17—Wednesday. Use this day for forwarding thy ventures pertaining to the artistic in life, especially if such efforts be directed towards real estate improvements or furnishings, architectural work, horticulture, finishings and decorations; seek no favor or advantage at the hands of thine employer during the middle hours of the day but pursue all the elegant work of life in the afternoon hours; when also enter into important commercial contracts and have thy dealing with monied men and institutions.

18—Thursday. Scrutinize thy business enterprises born on this day and have care that thou art not misled by extravagant representations or over-flattering appearances; beware of extraordinary speculative ventures, especially in stocks; as the time may witness some unusual fluctuations in prices.

19—Friday. A singularly evil day; enter not upon any new business, for no permanent pecuniary advantage will accrue from such now begun; beware of dealings in real estate and generally of parting with thy money in the hope of gain.

20—Saturday. A vigorous and energetic day; seek favor or advantage from persons in authority, officers of large corporations, railroad employees and all government officers.

21—Sunday. The conditions on this Sabbath day are specially conducive to eloquent and energetic efforts from the pulpit and for the appreciation and enjoyment of the best qualities in literature.

22—Monday. Seek not the fair sex nor expect much success in the elegant or artistic pursuits in the first half of this day; the latter part of the afternoon should have the preference for the principal ventures and undertakings of the day, especially in connection with money matters and for dealings with wealthy persons; the late night hours promote combustion and are likely to give unusual activity to the fire department.

23—Tuesday. Have caution in the use of the pen on this day and be not too ready to indulge thy tastes and appetites; postpone thy real estate dealings for a season; see that extravagant inclinations are checked and that the purse strings are held securely; look out for fires again in the evening.

24—Wednesday. Be in no haste to launch thine undertakings of magnitude in the morning hours, for hindrances and disappointments are more likely to accompany such efforts; as the noon hour is approached, however, let all thine energies be put forth in forwarding thine undertakings already in hand, but do not make new beginnings.

25—Thursday. Give preference to the middle hours of the day for thy principal efforts, especially in connection with the manufacturing and mechanical trades; when also deal with the machinist, engineer, traveler, tanner, brewer, founder, and dealer in cattle and metals. Particularly shun officers of large corporations and government officials and employees.

26—Friday. Enter into no contract concerning real estate in the first half of this day, when also avoid thy landlord and postpone thy dealings with very aged persons; after the noon hours let all honorable undertakings be crowded to the utmost; buy goods for trade; seek money accommodations, and have transactions with banks and persons of wealth.

27—Saturday. Let the elegant avocations be vigorously prosecuted during the middle hours of this day; when also deal in fancy and decorative goods. The day is not auspicious for the beginning of any great undertaking, and great caution will need to be exercised to prevent being misled by false and flattering promises of new schemes and enterprises now presenting themselves. This caution is particularly enjoined upon persons born about the 24th of February, 27th of May, or August, or the 30th of November, of past years, and such persons will be particularly wise to safeguard the health in these passing days, seeing that all threatening symptoms of liver and bowels and lung troubles are promptly treated.

28—Sunday. The mind is especially active in the morning and religious discourses will be earnest and eloquent.

29—Monday. Look carefully to the purse in the forenoon, scrutinizing expenditures rigidly and indulging not in money speculations; seek favor from public officials during the middle hours of the day; shun the fair sex in the early afternoon, but expect pleasure and satisfaction from the social, musical or dramatic entertainment of the evening.

30—Tuesday. Mixed and conflicting influences prevail at this time; beware of signing thy name to any important writings; scrutinize signatures and be duly watchful against thievery; let counsellors and judges be slow in decisions; let all have care in handling combustibles and explosives; the afternoon is the better part of the day and should be employed for urging all routine matters and enterprises already in hand.

31—Wednesday. The very early and very late hours are the best; but do not depend upon the middle hours for new work; business propositions presenting themselves for the first time during the middle hours are likely to be delusive and unprofitable, nor should any favor be looked for in thy dealings with government officials or persons generally in authority; the musical and dramatic engagements of the evening will prove very enjoyable and unusually successful.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address,
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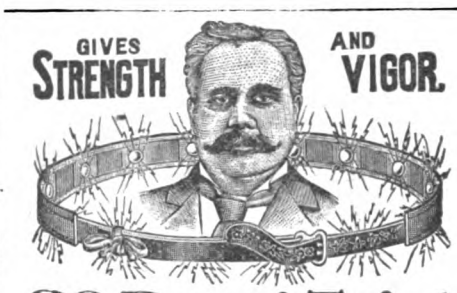
Send us your name and address, and we will send you enough "CALTHOS" to last five days. IT WILL BE SENT IN A SEALED PACKAGE BY MAIL. In the quiet of your home you can try it and see what it does.

All correspondence relating to the "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential.

We neither publish nor furnish testimonials. Address applications for trial treatment to

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The marvelous power exerted by my Electric Belt and Appliances, induces me to offer it to suffering men on 30 Days' Trial, so certain am I that it will cure and that you will gladly pay for the use of it. To men who have battered their stomachs with drugs I want them to exercise their judgement and consider that Electricity is the greatest power on earth. Its unseen current puts life and force into whatever it touches. The constant, steady life extended by my New Electric Appliances gives instant relief and never fails to cure Rheumatism, Backache, Kidney Troubles, Early Decay, Night Losses, Lack of Nerve Force and Vigor, Nervous Debility, Undevelopement and Lost Vitality. You may not have faith in it now, but

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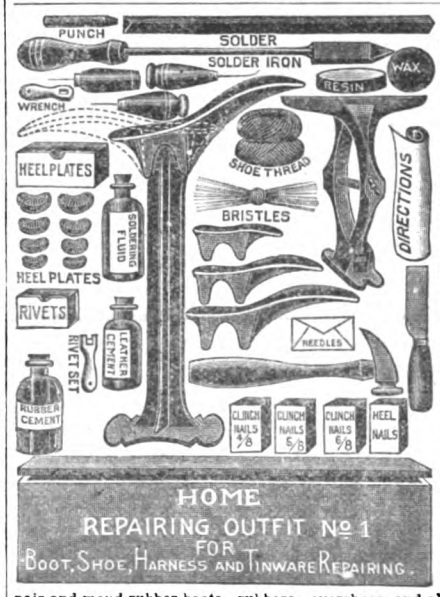
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Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools**, as shown in the above cut, viz: **1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering** all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately **would cost between $7.00 and $9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are **full sized, practical, neat** and **cheap**. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for $3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only $2.50** which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 12 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you. Address,
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Mataafa, the claimant to the throne of Samoa has three times found his way blocked to the semblance of regal honors that the Kingship of Samoa gives. Seventy years of age, worn and broken he is yet the ablest man, the best fitted to rule in the kingdom. Mataafa was one of the two vice kings when Germany deposed the weak inefficient Malietoa Lanpepa and set up in his place his assistant Samoaese. The natives rebelled and tried to make Mataafa king. England, Germany and America were drawn into the dispute and it seemed at one time that war between the great powers would result. The great storm that wrecked the battleship in the harbor at Apia will never be forgotten. The great disaster brought the nations to a calmer view and the Berlin treaty of 1891 was made. Equal powers of residence, trade and personal protection were given the three nations. The Samoan Government was declared independent and the people were to be allowed to choose their king. A Supreme Court consisting of one Judge was constituted. He was to be selected by the three powers, or if they failed to agree by the King of Norway and Sweden. The deposed Malietoa was also replaced on the throne. Mataafa had been made king by the nation but he yielded his place and became a sort of prime minister. He was a strong and brave man and the king was weak. They could not work together and Mataafa withdrew in a dignified manner to Malietoa. The people of Samoa universally desired him to be king and outbreaks in his favor were frequent. Finally Germany demanded that he be exiled to the Marshall Islands. Early last year, the poor weak king died and his no less weak son Malietoa Sanus wishes the throne. The Germans now thought that Mataafa might be useful to them and brought him back from exile. The nation that had always been against him now advocated his claim. At the time of the Berlin treaty they hated him and by a clause of the treaty he was debarred from rule. The people elected Mataafa king by a vast majority, but upon the submission of the election to the Chief Justice, it was declared that Mataafa was barred by the Berlin treaty. William M. Chambers an Alabamian is the present justice. The decision has brought the situation to a crisis that resembles that of 1891. War ships of the three nations are again in the beautiful harbor of Apia. Quiet, noble, dignified, the old Mataafa awaits a decision. Robert Louis Stevenson who knew him well declared him more fit to be king than any one in Samoa. Mataafa is a devout Catholic, a strong, just kindly man. The very nation that now urges his claim to kingship inserted the clause which the American justice declares renders his election void. The outcome is one of great interest to three nations and again the three flags flutter in the Samoan sunshine and the people and the patient old Mataafa await the result.



Abbas II., Khedive of Egypt is the nominal ruler of one of the most ancient countries in the world. He has little opportunity to show any strength as a ruler but Abbas Pasha has proved himself a skillful man of affairs in all that relates to his private business. He speaks five languages fluently—English, German, French, Arabic and Turkish. He was educated in Vienna and Switzerland. The Khedive is below the middle height and has shown a tendency towards stoutness. His large dark eyes have the dreamy expression of the East but their owner shows a hard practical business sense worthy of a Yankee. He rises at daybreak and spends the time until eight o'clock in an inspection of his estates. These are conducted in a European manner, a Scotch bailiff from the Agricultural College at Gizeh being in charge. After breakfasting, the Khedive drives into Cairo and spends his morning in the official business of Egypt. Any person with a grievance may drop a petition in a slit of the palace wall. After three o'clock the official day is over and the time until evening is spent upon the estate. The opera or some social affair occupies the evenings not spent with his family. The Khedive aside from the public property which he holds is a large private landholder. For some years he has been in the habit of purchasing lands that are seemingly worthless and bringing them under cultivation by the engineering skill of Europeans. He purchased an estate of nearly 10,000 acres, only 178 acres being productive. Over fifty miles of drainage canals were constructed and 1500 acres are now arable. Abbas II. shows his European training but in spite of it all he is an Oriental with the mental attitude characteristic of the East.

Monsieur Emile Loubet has just been chosen seventh president of the third French Republic. He was elected on one ballot of the Republican party. He has long been a prominent figure in political life. He comes from the south of France and is a plain, practical, hard-headed man from the middle walks of life. He was a well-known provincial lawyer before he entered public life. He has a thickset figure and a massive Roman head. In 1871 he was elected Senator and was made Minister of Public Works. Under Carnot he was Prime Minister and took the portfolio of the Interior. This ministry he was forced to resign on account of the Panama scandal but Mr. Loubet was in no way implicated. He was again chosen to the Senate and was elected its President in 1896 and again last year. He held this position when chosen President of France. He is much beloved in his home province and has the respect of all the foreign nations.



Agoncillo, the Filipino agent to this country, is the type of an educated native. He has a certain amount of native shrewdness and intelligence. He can hardly claim to rank with his teachers of diplomacy—the Spaniards. Agoncillo has talked very freely up to the beginning of actual hostilities. When he left Washington for Montreal he claimed that the move was to secure advices from Aguinaldo. The outbreak of war recalled him to the Philippines. He is a slight, undersized man with a rather weak face.

Aguinaldo, the famous leader of the Philippine insurgents is hardly the savage that some of the paragraphers picture him to be. His gold whistle is the outward sign of his only weak spot and that is an enormous vanity. He looks like a fragile, unformed boy with stooping shoulders and narrow chest. He has marked Mongolian features with the high cheek bones, oblique eyes, short nose and thick lips of the race. His skin is deeply pitted from the ravages of smallpox. His face is smooth, with no sign of a beard but his hair is abundant, coarse and black. Aguinaldo has an extremely nervous manner, never remaining quiet for one moment. His love of display is shown by his sign of authority, a gold whistle and by a large solitaire diamond which he wears upon his left hand. His face has the appearance of being slightly drawn to one side, a peculiar distortion common among the Filipinos. The foreign residents of Manila have long considered Aguinaldo as the smartest Filipino in the island and his rise to leadership has been no surprise.

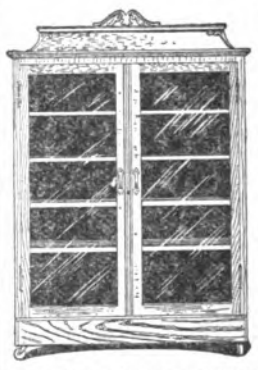
Miss Beatrice Herford is a young American woman who is widely known for her great success as a reader. She writes her own monologues which are character sketches of familiar English and American types. From the moment she appears before her audience she ceases to be Miss Herford and the character that she is personating lives before her audience. Miss Herford in private life is the wife of S. W. Hayward. She is the daughter of a Boston clergyman, the late Rev. Brooke Herford. As a child she was fond of the "make believe" of the average child but her favorite character was "Mrs. Roller". This name she had seen on a door plate and it seemed to her to be very elegant and high-sounding. So as "Mrs. Roller" she made frequent calls upon her family. This instinctive love of mimicry grew as the child grew. She began to imitate people to entertain her friends. Her brother is the well-known artist, Oliver Herford, and Miss Herford studied art for several years spending most of her time in London. All this time, she says she was pining to act. Finally her friends urged that she try some of her mimicry in public. Henry James, the well-known author, Zangwill, Bernard Shaw and William Archer were invited and Miss Herford gave a recital. Her success was assured. From that day she has devoted her talent to monologue entertainment. Her work at first was as a drawing-room entertainer but during the past winter she has drawn audiences that filled many of the best New York theaters. She writes her own monologues and never attempts to imitate men. She keeps a notebook in which she carefully notes the idioms, mannerisms and speech of people with whom she comes in contact. This is instinctive with her. She says she sometimes tries not to watch people but she comes in tired out and then realizes that she has been carefully noticing all the people she has met. She does not practice in front of a glass. She tried it once and found herself so self conscious that all the spontaneity was gone from her work. The Sociable Seamstress is one of her best liked monologues. It is the delicate realism of her work that has given Miss Herford her high rank.



Miss Evelyn Fletcher is the inventor of a new method of teaching music to children. By her way, music, the language of the soul is made an open book to the child. Toys, games, songs and stories are used and the sense of touch plays a most important part in the method. The system has met with the approval of many eminent musicians and has been introduced into the New England Conservatory of Music, the Temple College of Music and also in leading musical institutions in London and Toronto. Miss Fletcher comes of a musical family. Miss Fletcher is a Canadian but was educated in England. She plays both the violin and piano, studying these instruments in Belgium, Germany and Switzerland for nearly five years. It was while teaching music to a class of children in Toronto that the idea of formulating her method occurred to Miss Fletcher. She now has her headquarters in New York and devotes her time to training teachers in her method. She has been asked to demonstrate her method before the Royal Academy of Music in London and will soon go abroad for that purpose. The teachers who have studied her method have formed a club known as the Fletcher Musical Association. They publish a journal and report to one another any new plans or suggestions. As a child Miss Fletcher deeply regretted that she was not a boy so that she might engage in her father's profession of law. She now feels that the aid she is giving to the advance of a knowledge of music may add as much to the progress of the world as the work that seemed to her young mind more important.

Cat shows and cat lore and literature have become somewhat prominent of late, but John H. Dolph has long appreciated the charms of Grimalkin. His pictures of cats long since made him famous. So thoroughly has he become identified with his line of work that many people are surprised to know that Dolph ever painted anything but cats. That he attained distinction in this line is the result of a happy accident. His earlier pictures were of home-life on the farm. He had always wished to paint animals and in his first trip abroad studied with Louis Van Knyck at Antwerp. Van Knyck had won great fame as a painter of horses. On Dolph's return he found it necessary to produce an immediate "pot boiler." He found a little frame in his studio and cutting a canvass to fit it painted the nearest subject. This chanced to be a kitten that was frisking around the room. The picture sold instantly for one hundred dollars. Other cats were painted and by 1875, Dolph had become known as the Cat Artist. Mr. Dolph was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where his first art studies were made under the direction of Allen Smith. He succeeded in supporting himself during this time by decorating the interior of passenger coaches. Some years were spent in Detroit and Chicago as a portrait painter and artist of genre subjects. Later, five years were spent in New York. Hunting pictures, figure subjects and portraits were painted but sales were slow until his great success in 1875. Once since then he has given up his specialty and painted what he liked. For five years he studied the architecture of Paris and the history of France and filled his studio with paintings and studies of the time of Louis XIII. The public would have none of it. It was Dolph's cats that it demanded and cats it would have. Mr. Dolph is a large, handsome man with an inexhaustible fund of stories and good nature. His New York studio is in the Sherwood building but he has a country home at Ardsley, N. Y., where the cats who have showed him the path to fame and fortune frolic unmolested.

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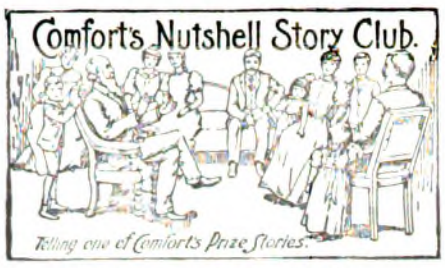
THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON.

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ROOM 407.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY EDMUND VANCE COOKE.

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"GIVE me a room," I said when I had left the record of my name and town and had javellined the pen in the raw potato provided for it.

I remember that the clerk had the smooth appearance and self-possessed manner of his kind. Moreover he had dark hair and brows, both plentifully sprinkled with white, which fact added greatly to his *empressment*. He caught a glimpse of my name on the register and although he had never seen me before, he responded with a mixture of dignity and deference.

"We'll do the best we can for you, Mr. Voakes, but we're loaded to the roof," which speech displayed his standing and experience in his calling.

He was behind the desk now, running over the little slips under the room-numbers and seemingly having difficulty in discovering a place to put me.

"Did you want to go to your room at once, Mr. Voakes?"

"Just as soon as I can get it."

"I thought perhaps you were going out and I might find a better room for you a little later, after the 11.10 flyer leaves," he suggested.

"Better give me something now," I answered. "I've traveled all day and I'm tired."

He returned to his search again and presently he was joined by a little stoop-headed man, with stern eyes, looking out from under beetling brows. I could see at a glance that he was the proprietor and that while he tolerated his patrons with no unpleasantness towards them, still he was fully aware of the service he was doing us by conducting a hotel.

"We're full up," I heard the clerk say. "How about four-hundred-and-seven?"

The inset eyes twitched nervously as their owner drew nearer to the clerk and muttered something. He scanned the room-lists himself, gave the matter a few seconds consideration and nodded briefly. "Open it," he said and then I noticed that he glanced towards me almost timidly. The clerk struck the bell. "Front, tell the head-chambermaid to make up four-hundred-and-seven quick."

I saw "Front" dart a curious, half-startled glance at me and then he was off in a flash. By this time I had made up my mind that there would be "kick coming" against No. 407. Ordinarily I am not a hard mortal to please, but I have traveled long enough to learn that a man may as well have all the comfort he is paying for and dignified hotel-clerks with white-streaked hair and distinguished airs respect him none the more if he allows himself to be imposed upon. I waited as patiently as I could and was very shortly rewarded by the information that my room awaited its occupant. Another "Front" grasped "key 407" and my satchel and escorted me to the elevator. "Floor!" ejaculated the elevator-boy grumpily to the bell-boy.

It was a very small thing, but I noticed that instead of giving a direct answer, my little guide thrust the brass key-tag under the eyes of his questioner. His eyes were shining and his lips were parted in a half-grin to which was added a subdued cast of awesome excitement.

The sluggish elevator-operator glanced at the key and I could see that even his interest was quickened and the "Swanee River," which he was softly whistling, suddenly ceased to flow.

The bell-boy made a remark or two apropos of nothing on the way down the hall and when we came to the room he dropped my "grip," fumbled away at the key-hole and when he flung the door open, he stepped back with a "Here you are, sir!"

Now everybody knows that it is the ordinary habit of the genus bell-boy to rush into the room, make a light, throw open the window and ask the guest if anything more is wanted. "Make a light!" I said, with a touch of impatience. "Is it gas, or electric?"

"Gas, sir," answered the boy, producing some matches, but still standing at the door. "Would you please to light it, sir. I'm too short to reach it, but it's right there," and he pointed into the darkness.

I struck a match and lit the gas and examined the room critically, and somewhat disappointedly, for I could see no slightest cause for complaint, beyond a somewhat close and oppressive atmosphere. I took the first step towards remedying this by throwing the window wide open and noticed that it opened on the platform of a fire-escape. I always make it a point to notice the "provisions in case of a fire" in a hotel anyway. I turned back and saw that the bell-boy had not gone, but still stood at the door.

"If you want anything," he said, "you can ring the bell, you know."

I looked at the boy amusedly. What had I done that he should take me for a benighted being unused to hotel bells? Or was he waiting for a tip? "Thank you," I responded, "I'll ring for you to come up and blow out the gas. Meanwhile, I wish you'd bring me some ice-water and a little stationery."

He was back with these in a jiffy. "Did you want to leave a call?" he asked.

"Eight o'clock," I answered.

If I had sent a bullet at him, it could hardly have produced a greater effect than these simple words. He turned ghastly pale, shot a last glance at me and took to his heels.

I communed with myself and decided that the people around that hotel were a queer crowd, meanwhile settling myself to write a letter home, before going to bed. As it was a warm June night I made myself as comfortable as possible by removing my coat and vest, collar, cuffs and tie.

I pulled out a drawer in my dresser for the accommodation of these furnishings and as I flung them in, I noticed that the paper lining the drawer was a Buffalo Courier. That being my home town and newspaper, it gave me a little homesick twinge and at the same time attracted another glance or two. A moment later I found myself reading the following item.

"Washington, May 16—Russell Apworthy aged 35 and unmarried was found dead in a room in the Treverton hotel at 8 o'clock, last night. All the circumstances point to suicide. He registered at the hotel at 10 P. M. and left a call for 8 A. M. When called he was found dead upon the floor and partly dressed. It is regarded as significant that Apworthy was assigned to room 407. There have been three deaths by suicide in that room since April first, one of them a former mayor of Leavenworth, with whom Apworthy is said to have been acquainted. It was a peculiar coincidence that in every case the suicide left a call for 8 A. M."

I have no hesitation in declaring that a shudder of alarm ran over me as I read that item and then I glanced around hastily and fearfully, though the gas lit the room up brightly. I looked at every corner. I looked in the closet. I scanned the walls for unsuspected doors, I even looked under the bed! "Bosh!" I said, "I've never committed suicide yet and I sha'n't to-night. What is there to be afraid of, anyway? But Apworthy, Apworthy; that name is odd, yet it sounds familiar."

I wrote my letter and then concluded I would turn in. I was sleepily standing before the glass preparatory to disrobing, when my glance caught the reflection of a human form, half crouched on my window-ledge and framed by my open window. It looked as if it had flown from somewhere and alighted there.

I have heard of hearts standing still and blood suddenly stagnating in the veins, but I never experienced the sensation before that moment. However, I am quite satisfied with the one experience. I want it repeated never.

I whirled in my tracks and then my heart gave a great bound and struggled to regain operations.

"Hello, Ha! Voakes!" laughed the figure, entering, "don't you know me?"

"Logan!" I gasped; then the room spun around and a blackness surged up over my eyes. Just why I should have held up until I recognized my old school-friend, Logan, whom I had neither seen nor heard from for several months, and then should have caved in, I do not know. Perhaps it was because I realized, then, that I was in good hands and there was no particular reason why I shouldn't give way. I am not subject to anything of the kind and have never fainted before or since, but the oppressiveness of that room and the different trifles of the evening had combined to unnerve me. Logan and I had been friends for years, but a few months previously we had both taken up new pursuits and as he lived in St. Louis and I in Buffalo, we had allowed our former friendly interest to suffer a lapse.

I think I remained unconscious but a minute or two. I was on the bed when I opened my eyes and I struggled up very much dazed and very much ashamed of myself.

"I must say you give a fellow a cordial welcome when he returns from Mexico," laughed Logan, who was always merry and always doing and saying the unexpected.

"Mexico! I didn't know you had been there. We—we must talk it over in the morning."

"Yes," he said. "I didn't know my appearance would shock you so, but it's this devilish hotel. I've had a prejudice against it *ever since April first*."

"April first," I repeated, vaguely forgetting for the moment the date of the first suicide mentioned in the article, but noticing that my companion had grown grave.

"Yes; don't let's talk about it." he answered and then with his old, well-remembered, quizzical air, he added, "I know why you are here. Why will you do it? I suppose there's no stopping you, though. Ah me, the force of bad examples! But there! I'm going to leave you. You need a good sound sleep. You're sure you're all right, are you? Lots of courage and all that? Well, I'll see you in the morning."

He slipped out of the door and then he thrust his head back in again to say, "By the way, we must look up Apworthy in the morning. You remember him? A mighty jolly, good fellow. Don't you recall him? I introduced you to him in Leavenworth one time. He was stopping with his friend, the Mayor."

Of the night which I put in in that room, I shall say nothing. Suffice it that long before my call for 8 A. M., I was down in the office. The clerk of the *distingue* air was still on duty and I went up to him. "Look here, my friend," I said, "if you ever give me room four-hundred-and-seven again, it will result in something more than a suicide." It was worth a night of horrors to notice the wilt of that clerk's assurance.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"I mean that there have been three cases of suicide in four-hundred-and-seven since April first and it's a deuced uncanny room to sleep in."

"Who told you that?" demanded the clerk.

"Nobody told me. I found it out for myself last night, after I reached my room," I retorted, enjoying his discomfiture.

The clerk's face was a study. "Well," said he after a pause, "did you—did you *see* anything?"

I preferred to change the subject at this point, so I responded with a brief "Maybe;" and added "by the way, what's the number of Mr. Logan's room?"

To my surprise, the clerk exhibited more concern that ever.

"There's no Mr. Logan staying here!" he cried, with unnecessary emphasis, as it struck me.

"Why there must be!" I exclaimed in turn. "He was in my room last night."

The clerk swallowed something and wet his lips before he answered slowly: "You say you saw Mr. Logan in your room last night?"

"Certainly."

He leaned over the counter and said in a strained voice: "A bell-boy, a chambermaid, the night-porter and, now, *you* have all told me that Mr. Logan was seen in the hotel last night. I don't know how *you* know it, but Logan was the name of the man who occupied four-hundred-and-seven on the night of April first."

"Andrew Logan!" I gasped, "the first suicide?"

"No, not *Andrew* Logan, *Albert* Logan. See here!" He turned to April first on the register and showed me the signature—"Albert Logan, Mexico City, Mex."

I said nothing, but I sat down and tried to think. "Albert Logan? Why, yes, Andrew's twin brother. He had been in Mexico for years. There was no ghost about it. I had seen Albert and—," then there flashed on me the struggling bits of conversation of the previous night. The mysterious allusions to his return from Mexico, to April first, to Apworthy and the Mayor of Leavenworth. *It had been Albert Logan I had seen.*

And his assertion that he had known why I was there and he would see me in the morning and we would see those other unfortunate self-slayers! Surely he must have meant that I was designed for the next victim. Ugh! my flesh crawled when I considered it all.

"Mr. Clerk," I said, "send up for my grip. I'm going to leave."

"I can give you another room," he suggested humbly.

"Not in this town, you can't," I retorted firmly.

He shook my hand at parting and remarked solemnly: "If I ever assign four-hundred-and-seven again, I hope I'll hang for it."

* * * * * *

I reached Buffalo in good time, though I had a strong notion to go to St. Louis instead, look up my old chum and tell him of my wonderful interview with his dead brother. It was lucky I didn't, however, for I was only back a day or two when I received a telegram dated from Pittsburg and signed by my old chum. He was coming to see me. I went down to the train filled full of the long startling story I had for him. His first words, as he came through the station-gate, knocked it clear out of me.

"Why the mischief did you run away from me in Washington?" he demanded.

"From *you?*" I cried.

"Yes, from *me*," he retorted, laughing at my amazed countenance. "And when I went to look you up at the Treverton that morning, I thought the clerk would have a spasm. Why, they pretty nearly called the Fire Department to put me out!"

"Hold on, Andrew!" I cried. "For Heaven's sake, let me get this by degrees. How did you happen to come in through my window like Poe's 'grim, ungainly, ghastly' raven?"

"Just one of my jokes, of course. I had a room at the St. Elmo, which runs back and jogs against the Treverton. You had your window up and a bright light burning and I could see you from my room as plainly as I can this minute. I discovered that the two fire-escapes came together, so I crawled out on mine, over to yours and into your window. I thought I'd surprise you—and I did."

"And Mexico?"

"I have just come from there, settling up poor Bert's affairs. The shock of his death and the time it has taken to straighten out his estate explain why you haven't heard from me lately."

"And Apworthy and the Mayor of Leavenworth?"

"Say, that's sad," he answered in a sober tone. "Apworthy was a splendid fellow. I didn't know much about his friend, the Mayor. When I spoke to you I just remembered that Apworthy had written me that he and the Mayor were going to Washington to spend several weeks. I didn't know of their following poor Bert till it all came out at the hotel the other morning."

"But didn't you say something about knowing why I was there and—and that sort of thing?"

"Of course I did. I was chaffing you a little, pretending that you were there to look after your fences with Miss Winifred, for I confess her sister had a strong influence on *my* being in Washington. I didn't know you were in four-hundred-and-seven and in fact never knew the number of the room poor Bert occupied."

I gazed at him in silence for a moment and then I said, "well, you are the biggest failure of a ghost I ever saw in my life. After you have a dead sure case for yourself, you come around and don't leave your believers a thread to hang by!"

The Mascot of Horse Shoe Hill.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY R. H. FARNHAM, JR.

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"WHAT about him?" exclaimed old Bill Greves, pausing in his work of stuffing "longcut" into the blackened bowl of his clay pipe, to glance around the room in surprise. "It used to be hard to find people in these parts who had never heard of him; let alone those that claimed they had seen him. But, then," after a pause, "that was years ago. But I shall remember him as long as I live, gentlemen, for I saw him once myself." A silence of expectancy followed, and while the snowed-in crews settled themselves comfortably in the warmth of the whitewashed stove, the old man lighted his pipe and proceeded:

"Any of you fellows who ever traveled over the 'Sunderland Valley' as long as fifteen years ago know all about the Horse Shoe Hill—com-

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ing up around the mountain there out of Limesville, fifty feet to the mile, crooked as its name, and running over two of the riskiest bridges that ever held up a train. Why they ever built over such a hill instead of tunneling, most people could never understand; but the reason for it is connected with my story. It seemed that when the road was first talked of they made two different surveys. One of these ran the line over the mountain as it was afterwards built, and the other took it through the range by a tunnel. Most of the stockholders wanted to run the line through the mountain because they thought the hill line would be so dangerous as to make the road unpopular. But there was a man named Graham connected with the concern—a hard, miserly man—who voted against this idea because he thought the hill line would be cheaper to build. He said that danger was not a thing for the stockholders to consider, for the freight traffic would support the road, so if people didn't want to ride over it they could walk. Now it was all very well for him to talk that way, but he knew, the same as all of them knew, that the road would be the only outlet for the travel and commerce of the whole region, and that of course the passenger traffic would be large. But the old man held out with his majority of the shares, though the others beat him out as far as numbers went, and the line was built over the hill. But it wasn't much of a victory. The very first train over the road, after the construction trains had been taken off, was wrecked at the upper bridge, and Graham's wife and child were killed.

"The old man went stark crazy after that, and they had to shut him up at Boynton and put a guard over him. But he broke away from them one night and got out, and nobody ever knew exactly what became of him. There was a body found in the Ossetomanie shortly afterwards which was supposed to be Graham's, but nobody could identify it positively.

"It must have been a month after this that I was promoted from firing to pulling extra freight, and about the same time, too, that a brakeman on one of the night runs began to tell about frequently passing a strange acting man on different parts of the big grade. The stranger was described as an old man with white hair, dressed in one of these long frock coats, but never wearing a hat or carrying a lantern. He was generally seen hanging around in the woods or on the track near the upper bridge. Sometimes he was examining the masonry of the retaining walls, or again testing loose joints along the track after the train had passed.

"It wasn't long before one or two of the other boys got glimpses of him, and he was always about the same. Finally one morning the trackwalker found that some loose stones in the masonry of the bridge had shaken loose in the night, but had been propped into place with a lot of heavy ties, which had kept the bridge from falling. This caused a good deal of excitement, and most of the boys said it was clear as glass that it was old man Graham's ghost up there, trying to square himself. There were two sides to that opinion, though, and finally the holders of the opinions compromised and agreed to call it a Mascot, which it certainly had been. I don't pretend to say what else it might have been. I'm only going to tell you the speech of people, and just what I saw myself.

"We didn't have any regular time—of course running extra, and quite often we would hit the big hill at night, going or coming. I used to look for the Mascot often enough, but it seemed as if I should never get to see him. Finally there came a day when I felt that if there was a Mascot around anywhere I needed him pretty badly. We had hard luck from the beginning of our run that day. First Jack McCann, one of our brakemen, got his hand smashed making a coupling at Gregory; and it wasn't twenty miles further on that we struck a team at the Blue Cut highway crossing and killed the old man that was driving. I was wishing that the third misfortune would happen quick, so as to have it all done and over with, but it didn't come. My fireman got down at our next stop and found a four leaf clover and put it in his shoe. I never took much stock in that sort of thing anyway, and it just showed me that he wasn't feeling very easy himself. But nothing happened, good or bad, aside from the engine steaming badly, and we pulled into Boltonville, the end of our run.

"We had to double right out of Boltonville again, and with our own switching to do we didn't have much chance to get rested and settle down. But after we'd got our train made up, and were lying in the yard waiting orders we had a little time to think; and just at this time it began to rain.

"Now you know as well as I do how nasty weather will affect a man when he's got the blues. My fireman, Tom King, put up the curtains in the gangway to keep out the storm, and both of us just sat there and watched the drops of water trickling down the cab windows, and never saying a word. I was pretty young then, and hadn't seen much of death, and it seemed to me all the time we sat there that I could see the face of that man we'd run into that morning looking in from the dark outside.

"We got our orders at last and pulled out. I remember standing up and waving my hand to the operator at the registry station, and he was a fellow I had never liked very well, either. Then I began to see what a fool I was, and I said to myself: 'See here, Bill, you brace up, and quit acting like an old woman.'

"Out on the line the storm was heavier, and there was quite a bit of lightning. We made pretty slow time on account of poor steaming, and we had to use sand on all the grades. But we pounded off the miles without any mishap; and after we'd stopped for water three times and found everything all right I was breathing a good deal easier.

"Then we came into the mountain district, and there the storm seemed to get worse every minute. I never saw such lightning before nor since, and that thunder boomed and grated till I swear I thought the cab windows would break with the jar. It wasn't far from three o'clock when we got to the top of the big hill. There were no air brakes on freight engines in those days and I was a little afraid of the grade because we'd used up all our sand. But my fireman and I set the tank brake, and I shut off and reversed, and thought I wouldn't call the boys out on deck in the storm unless it became necessary.

"We began to drop down the hill at a good sharp pace. We rounded the upper curve at 25 miles an hour, and swung into the reverse below with a lurch that nearly threw me from my seat. Then we were moving! The engine was rolling heavily, and the rattle of the drivers over the low joints came so fast that, for a fact, the rails seemed only about a yard long; and the noise we made running by those rocky walls was something awful.

"Pretty soon the lightning showed up one of those little mountain road crossings, where the 'corduroy' crosses the track. They seldom use those roads at night, but for some reason I can't explain I reached for the whistle rope and blew a crossing signal that could have been heard in Limesville. Ten minutes later we swung around the last curve and onto the long tangent that drops straight to the bottom of the hill.

"As we came around I thought I caught a glimpse of a light, way ahead. I yelled to King to watch and hung out my window to look for it. It was a light sure enough—a very small one, and about a mile ahead. King thought it looked like a fire on the track; but I was sure I saw it move. The next instant my heart almost stood still, for I placed the thing exactly; it was at the upper bridge! And it moved—I was sure of it—making the stop signal right across the track.

"I whistled for brakes, and sent King back to help the boys with the train. Then I opened the throttle on the reversed engine; but the rail was like grease, and the drivers backed without holding us up at all. We were so close now that I could make out the figure of a man, standing on the edge of the abutment and waving some kind of a blazing torch. Then the figure would get kind of indistinct, or as though you could see through it, and behind it I saw the bridge was blazing. It was the Mascot! I knew it in a minute, by the boys' description. I couldn't make out his face, but I could see his long coat, and made out his white hair as distinctly as I see you now. But glad as I was to see him, it looked as if he had come too late. Even then half the wheels on the train were sliding, and our speed was no slower. Suddenly while I was watching him he gave a fearful yell, and the bridge went down behind him and carried him into the swollen stream.

"I made up my mind it was all up, and jumped for the gangway. But at the same moment we ran into something gritty on the rails. The drivers caught it and almost stood still, and then it took hold of the sliding wheels of the tank. I climbed back to my seat and opened the cylinder cocks to relieve the awful pressure, and in a minute more we came to a standstill within thirty feet of the place where the bridge had been.

"We found the rails covered with sand for some distance back—some of the boys thought it had washed down from the mountain, but if they'd been in the cab they would have known better. The bit of the bridge that was left was still smoking; it had been struck by lightning.

"The Mascot never was heard of again.

"Now I've had people laugh at this experience of mine, and they can do so if they want to; but you can't tell me that when sand comes down a mountain side and deposits itself on the rail to save a train, and burning bridges go waving a stop signal, that there isn't something supernatural going on somewhere; and especially under circumstances such as I have described.

"But it's all past now, and the scene of it is gone too; for the very next year after the bridge burned the company abandoned the hill line, and tunneled through the mountain as they had first intended."

THE GENTLEMANLY RATTLESNAKE.

CONTRASTED WITH THE GHOULISH GERM.

Imagine a man's path leading him through a section of country in which there were millions of rattlesnakes! With what caution and circumspection he would take every step. He would however, have a fair chance of coming to his journey's end in safety, because a rattlesnake, like an old-fashioned clock, warns before it strikes. The rattlesnake stands as the type of the deadliest foes of the human race. But there are foes quite as deadly and more to be feared than rattlesnakes. Germs that strike at the vital centers of life; germs of foul diseases deadly as the venom of the snake, and giving no warning of their presence, infest the air we breathe, the water we drink. Once introduced into the blood they multiply with fearful rapidity, absolutely eating up the



very principle of life. Compared with a disease germ a rattlesnake is a gentleman. He is a fair fighter. He tells you to look out. You have a chance to fight or run. The disease germ sneaks upon you. It comes while you are sleeping. It gains an entrance to the blood. In a few days or even hours it multiplies to millions until your blood is full of its offspring. They go all over the body seeking a weak spot. They don't rattle—they strike.

"The blood is the life," and the germ assaults the blood. The microscope reveals the germ of malaria, honeycombing the health by devitalizing the red corpuscles. You've cracked a hazel nut sometime and found in it nothing but dust and a little white worm. The meat of the nut is all eaten up. The malaria germ eats out the vital principle of the corpuscles in just that way. The result is collapse. The thought of a rattlesnake frightens us. Yet the snake is not one tithe as dangerous as the little germ, mining, like a mole, a passageway along the veins and arteries by which it is preparing to assault the citadel of life.

The condition of the blood which indicates the undermining presence of disease germs is marked by languor, a feeling of sluggishness, dull headache, inability to make any effort in business and indifference to all forms of pleasure. The appetite is bad, the breath foul. Disturbing dreams rob the sleep of all refreshing influence. There is nervousness and irritation. The blood seems hot in the fingers and there are hot flushes all over the body. The eyes burn, and specks seem to float before them. These symptoms will not all be present at once, as they belong to different stages of disease; nor is it probable any one person will experience them all. But any of such symptoms indicate the prompt need of a tonic, a medicine that will put vitality into the blood enough to give it strength to destroy and cast out the invading germs.

In such a condition the remarkable efficacy of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has been proved over and over again in thousands of cases. Acting directly on the organs of digestion and nutrition, and upon the blood-making glands, its first influence is to strengthen the entire system, clearing away obstructions and carrying away effete matter and poisonous accumulations. The blood is enriched and the germs of disease, which like all other parisites flourish best in filth, forsake the blood which is cleansed of its filthy accumulations. "Golden Medical Discovery" works with Nature. It comes to Nature when she is worn out with fighting, just like a timely reinforcement bringing food and ammunition, and with new strength and power Nature battles against disease and overcomes it.

There is no alcohol, whisky or other stimulant in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. That is a point to bear in mind when considering the value of a tonic medicine. Most so-called tonics are loaded with alcohol. They only brace up for the time, re-acting injuriously upon the diseased system.

"I was troubled with malarial fever and was under doctor's care for quite a time," writes Mr. J. F. Kidd, of Parmleysville, Wayne Co., Ky. "They had almost given me up, and my suffering was very great. My pulse was weak, breath short and I had severe pains in back, head and legs. Had palpitation of heart, and from June 1st, 1895, to May 1st, 1898, I was not able to do a day's work. I purchased five bottles of Dr. R. V. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and before I had finished taking the first two bottles I was very much better of my disease of three years' standing. I continued taking the medicine, and by the time the fifth bottle was gone I was a well man. I can cheerfully recommend Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery to any similar sufferer."

Such testimony as this is the most practical and convincing argument which can be advanced for the healing and invigorating power of the "Golden Medical Discovery." Thousands upon thousands have used it and ninety-eight per cent. of these have found a cure even when vitality had fallen to a low ebb, and distressing cough, bleeding at the lungs and other serious symptoms had appeared.

"Words fail to express what I suffered for three years, with cold chills, palpitation of heart, shortness of breath, and low spirits," writes Mrs. A. C. Jones, of Walterboro, Colleton Co., S. C. "I could not sleep and really thought I would soon die. Had a peculiar roaring through my head all the time. Was so emaciated and weak I could not feed myself. My aunt induced me to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, which I did, only to please her, and *six bottles cured me*. To-day I am sound and well. During the three years I was sick I had five different physicians."

The dealer who offers a substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery" filches not only his customers' money to make an extra profit, but also his health. For there is no other medicine "just as good" as "Golden Medical Discovery" for the stomach, blood and lungs. Insist upon having the "Discovery."

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is a helpful book. Within its 1008 pages may be found an answer to almost every question concerning human physiology and reproduction, with specific instructions for nursing and the treatment of disease which will save any family hundreds of dollars. This book is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay the expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the paper edition, or 31 stamps for the cloth edition. Address, Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

JULIUS WESTON'S DILEMMA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FREDERICK E. BURNHAM.

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JULIUS Weston was a detective in the employ of one of the largest secret service bureaus of the East. Such being the case it is not at all strange that one Saturday evening he was suddenly detailed to shadow two suspected forgers and counterfeiters who had for some reason best known to themselves shown to the city two clean pair of heels.

The detective managed to send a brief note to his wife, stating he was about to take the limited, west bound express and might not return for a fortnight. That was the last that any one knew of the detective. The express met with an accident, a dozen passengers were killed and more than two score wounded. It was generally conceded that the detective was one of three individuals who were so fearfully mangled as to be unrecognizable.

Years passed and Julius Weston's wife died and was buried in the churchyard. A marble slab marked her resting place and the inscription told the passerby that Julius Weston likewise had passed away.

Julius Weston was busy laying his plans while he journeyed on the trail of the fugitives. Suddenly he was thrown violently forward in his seat, and the next instant there came a terrific crash, the forward car telescoping his own, completely demolishing it, and killing outright a number of its occupants, and wounding many others. The detective was among those injured.

The next thing that Weston realized after that frightful crash, he was lying on a cot in a hospital with his head bandaged. He looked about him in a wondering sort of a way, quite unable to understand what it all meant. The doctor asked him his name, but the poor fellow, try as he would, could not recall it, nor, indeed, anything connected with his past. It seemed to him as though he had just been born into the busy world.

One morning he was walking down one of the side streets of the city when his attention was called to two flashily dressed young men who were sauntering along just ahead of him. Something about the young men half awoke a train of recollection. Scarcely knowing why, Weston followed the strangers about from place to place, an irresistible desire seizing him to shadow the men, if need be, to the end of the earth. Finally he located their hotel and learned that they had been stopping there for several weeks. They spent money freely and intermingled with the wealthy young men of the city. The clerk at the desk said that they were brothers, sons of a coal baron. Why did they interest Weston?

Money! Fraud! Counterfeit!

Again and again did those words ring in his ears as he followed the two men about the city. Their faces seemed to be a connecting link between the present and the past, yet a mist ever hung between which he could not penetrate.

One morning he made a fool of himself, as

he said. Growing desperate he called at the police station and told the captain that there were two rascals stopping at the Q—— Hotel and he wanted warrants issued for their arrest.

"Your proof?"

Julius Weston was confounded. He looked at the chief blankly for a moment and bowing his head, left the office deeply chagrined.

The chief smiled and remarked that another crank had materialized. He detailed a "shadow" to follow the stranger and presently the trail led the detective to the hotel where the two suspected men were stopping.

Two hours later the chief received a message from the "shadow," asking that warrants for the arrest of the Cary Brothers, notorious counterfeiters and forgers, be issued and sent without delay.

The chief wondered who the strange man was who had furnished such valuable information. He questioned him sharply, but the poor fellow could not even remember his name. The bureau soon learned that this man with no past was a marvel. The most difficult threads he followed with ease. Criminals who had long baffled the shrewdest detectives were no match for his cunning. One after another they were rounded up until the old "sleuths" were green with envy.

Constantly were things occurring which sorely troubled Weston's mind. Almost could he recall the past. Now he saw a face that brought back a forgotten incident, but ever was there a mist before it and he saw no more. The odor of a flower reminded him of a place of glad memories, yet the picture vanished ere he could complete the chain.

A peculiar dish of food brought before him a scene that appealed vividly to his mind; almost could he see those gathered about the board, and sometimes he thought he caught the sound of their voices.

Unhappy Weston! The faces he could see outlined slowly vanished with no feature distinctly visible. The voices of those who spoke never rose above a murmur. Cursing the fate that hid his past, he pursued his calling with grim determination. He could trace criminals with the keen scent of a Cuban bloodhound, but he was powerless to learn anything of his own past.

Tortured in his own mind by the conflicting emotions which gave him no rest day or night, he consulted with the leading physicians, hoping to find some relief. One and all agreed that a portion of the skull rested upon the brain, resulting in a partial paralysis, but no physician was willing to undertake the removal of the fragment of bone.

It was while passing along the street one morning that a remarkable occurrence took place. Workmen had been digging a trench and a board was thrown across for pedestrians to walk upon. Intent upon his paper, Weston walked into the pit, receiving a severe shaking up. That fall accomplished what the doctors had feared to attempt. Instantly was Weston's mind as clear as a bell.

"We're wrecked!" Those were the first words that passed Weston's lips.

"Help! Help! Help! I can't move!"

A half dozen workmen rushed to his assistance and he gazed at them in astonishment.

"Where am I? We're wrecked? I'm mad! mad! mad!"

Darting away from the astonished men, he rushed down one street and up another, firmly convinced that he had lost his reason. And it was not to be wondered at, for the last thing that he remembered was the terrible crash of the two trains and the subsequent shrieks of the wounded and dying; the next instant, so far as he was concerned, he awoke to find himself in a pit where workmen were shoveling dirt. The transition was too sudden. For a time Weston was indeed crazy. Gradually, however, he grew calmer and looked about him. All seemed strange. He remembered nothing of the city, save in a hazy sort of a way, similar to his recollection of his past prior to his fall.

He asked the name of the city and learned that he was more than one thousand miles from the scene of the disaster which had clouded his mind. He stepped into a telegraph office, thinking to wire his wife that he had received no serious injury in the collision.

"What's this?" asked the operator, noting the message and eyeing Weston sharply.

"Limited express wrecked? There has been no wreck that I know of. What are you thinking about, old man?"

"No wreck?" said Weston, feebly, turning away. "I guess I'm not feeling just right."

At the depot he learned that a train left for the East within a half-hour. Buying a through-ticket he was presently on his way. All that day and the following night he traveled. Everything seemed strange to him. The papers told him astounding things. Who was President Garfield who had been assassinated? The last president that he remembered anything about was President Lincoln.

Seeing his face in the glass for the first time since his fall, he was surprised to find himself strangely changed. His former jet-black hair and moustache were now snow-white.

At last he arrived, but how wonderfully metamorphosed was everything. Where had been vacant fields, stood trim houses. Where formerly were dwelling-houses, now great structures of granite and brick had been reared. Pausing here and there as he wended his way homeward he wiped the perspiration from his brow.

There he stood! He knew the neat little cottage where he had lived with his family those happy years. The same vine was growing over the door and apple-trees shaded the porch, only they seemed much larger than when he went away. Somehow a growing distrust of his own senses was fast taking possession of him. He wondered if his wife and children had likewise changed since he had left them. For an instant he hesitated before opening the door, then, summoning all his courage, threw it open, and was surprised to find himself face to face with a strange man who demanded his business.

"Business?" he shouted, seizing the man and hurling him down the steps. "Business? what is your business in my home?"

Now he noticed for the first time the children who had been playing about the house. They were about the age of his own, but they were not his children. The woman who now stood where the stranger was when he had laid violent hands upon him, was not his wife. No, she was brandishing a chair high above her head, the personification of the Furies. Goaded on by the sight, Weston leaped at her, dragging her from the house, and tumbling the children into the street.

Rushing in, Weston banged the door behind him and turning the key in the lock was master of the situation. From room to room he hastened calling his wife and offspring by name, begging them to return to him. But they came not, and no answer did he hear save the echo of his own voice and the growing uproar in the street.

The police had arrived and were battering down the door, when, enraged to the last degree, Weston threw open the front door and shaking his fist in the faces of those before him, he fairly flew from the house, successfully eluding his pursuers. Two hours later he appeared at the office where formerly the secret-service had its quarters. A dapper little man stepped up to him and demanded his business.

"I have no business, sir," said he, sadly, "but I would that I could meet with one whom I know. I left this office but yesterday on the trail of two counterfeiters, and now when I return, my family is gone, and my home is gone, and my friends I see no more, and I myself am changed."

"You are a bit off, sir," said the little man, motioning Weston to the door. "We are busy to-day, kindly disturb us no longer."

"I will trouble you no longer, or any one else, for that matter," said Weston, simply. "I know that I am not myself. I am some one else. I know not what has come over me."

To the churchyard Weston wandered, intent upon finding some quiet nook where he could reason with himself. A marble slab attracted his attention and he read the inscription.

JULIUS WESTON, DIED MAY 2, 1864.

REBECCA WESTON, DIED JULY 18, 1880.

That was too much; he staggered backward with his hand clasping his forehead. His wife was dead, and he was dead, and yet he was alive and staring at his own gravestone.

The sexton paused in his work, hearing the report of a revolver. Boys were forbidden to discharge fire-arms within the churchyard, and he hastened to the spot where he saw the puff of smoke. But no boys fled at his approach. Fallen upon the little mound, his hand clutching the still smoking revolver, was a middle-aged man, his eyes closed in death.

The Voodoo Queen of Cagayan.

A Story of the Philippine Islands.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX BENNETT THRASHER.

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SENOR, the Voodoo Queen waits outside to see you."

The half-breed Spanish-Moro servant announced the arrival of this royal visitor with a mixture of awe and fear which was impressive. Evidently she was to him, at least, a personage not to be treated lightly.

"What next?" thought I to myself.

I had been only three days in my new position as diplomatic and military representative of the United States in Cagayan, one of the Philippine Islands, to which I had been sent by order of the military governor at Manila.

Cagayan was once little more than a volcanic rock a few square miles in extent, but time has worn down the roughness of the cooled lava, covered it with soil, and grown so luxuriant a vegetation there that it is famous even among the riotous greenery of all this tropic country. The political situation in Cagayan was somewhat different from that in most of the islands. The inhabitants are almost without exceptions Moros, who had never taken kindly to the Spanish rule, and in one way or another had managed to remain almost independent. This hatred for the Spanish, though, had seemed to prepossess them in favor of the Americans, and about the time the native disturbances about Manila had been at their highest an envoy had come from Cagayan to Admiral Dewey assuring him of the loyalty of this island to the Americans. As a result it was thought well to open communication with them, and for this purpose I was sent down with a squad of soldiers. One of the gunboats which was to make a cruise through the Sulu Sea took us to Cagayan, and leaving us there was to call on her way back for dispatches, or for our return if we did not find it advisable to stay.

To tell the truth I did not feel at all sure there would be any of us left to send dispatches, or to return, so treacherous and unreliable had the natives in many of the islands proved. So far, however, everything had been quiet, and apparently peaceable.

Who the Voodoo Queen could be I did not know, nor could I guess her errand. My servant when asked, although he had talked like a parrot about everybody and everything else, was strangely silent.

"Show her in," I said.

She came, and quite involuntarily I found myself starting to rise and to say, "Be seated, Madam."

And yet she was only a black woman, blacker than the majority of the Moros, tall, of large frame without being stout, and with iron gray hair which was pushed in heavy waves back from her face beneath a dead-black turban embroidered with cabalistic designs in yellow. The very atmosphere surrounding some people commands respect. This black savage possessed that peculiar attribute as completely as any person I have ever seen.

"Senor," said she, to my surprise speaking excellent Spanish. "I ask friendship for myself and the people of this island. They are a simple people, and rightly treated can be ruled as easily as children."

I assured her that our only wish was to give the people of all the islands the fairest treatment possible. Our interview lasted for half an hour. Then she said:

"Senor, I thank you. We are friends. You speak for your great ruler, of whom we know so little. I can answer for my people. I leave proof with you."

When she had come into the room I noticed she had brought with her an odd-shaped basket of closely woven rushes. Now, unfastening the cover of this basket she reached in, and to my horror drew out, squirming and coiling about her arm, an enormous black snake which, to my greater horror, she placed upon the floor, where, hissing venomously it coiled itself, holding its head a few inches above its body as if, to my eyes, getting ready to strike.

Wild tales of mysterious murders wrought by poisoned snake fangs flashed through my mind, and I was almost shouting for help when I saw the serpent's eyes close and his head sink quietly down upon the lustrous black coil of his body. His mistress had held out a hand over him, and this had been the result.

"Senor," said she once more, "mi serpiente a su disposicion," (My snake is yours.)

Which saying she walked out, leaving snake and basket behind. I saw her through an open window, if one may give that name to the portion of the wall of a Philippine house which swings up to admit light and air, cross the square before the house and walk away with stately carriage toward the forest. I sat and watched the snake, afraid to move. Finally I shouted for Mateo, the servant.

At the sound of my voice the reptile opened his eyes, and I felt sure glared at me.

Mateo came, his face even yet awestruck. I suspect that he and various of his fellows had watched the whole interview through cracks in the bamboo wall of the house.

"Can't you get that thing out of here?" I asked.

"Oh, Senor. Never. The snake of the Voodoo Queen is a blessing. See, Senor. Her sign is on it."

He pointed to three white marks on the reptile's black neck, which did look as if three fingers had been laid there.

Mateo's tongue was loose enough now that he felt sure the Queen had looked favorably upon me. He told me she was not a native of the island, but was said to be the child of a Negro king, years before brought as a slave to the islands. Just how she had been freed no one knew. Some said she had killed her master and fled from the island which had been her home, to Cagayan, where she had gone into the forest to live, surrounded by a truly awful bodyguard of snakes and powerful conjure-charms. The natives had come to have a respect for her skill as a doctress, and a fear for her occult powers which had made her more their ruler than the representatives of Spain had ever been.

While we talked the big black snake uncoiled himself and slowly glided out of the room, across the veranda, and under the house. Unlike the native houses, which are almost invariably perched on stout posts which raise them from five to twenty feet above the ground, this government house, for I had taken possession of the building which my Spanish predecessors had vacated, was raised not more than two feet from the ground, so that his snake-

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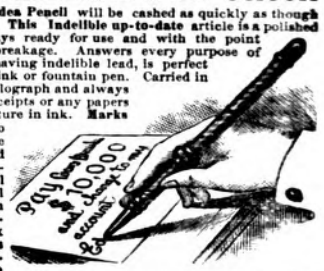


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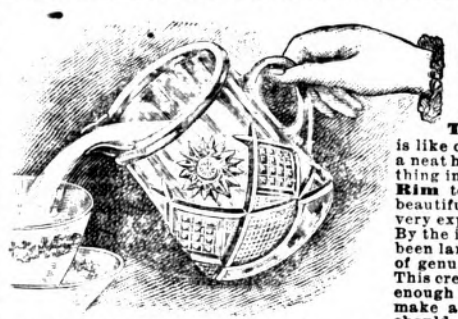
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GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

ship had a commodious and convenient retreat under it.

"He is gone," said I, not, I acknowledge, without relief.

"No," said Mateo. "He never will leave where his mistress placed him."

And he did not. While I was there he never left the house. Sometimes he would not come out from under the house for a day or two, and then again I would wake in the morning to find him coiled neatly on the floor in the middle of my bedroom. We never had a rat, or scorpion, or vermin of any kind after he came, a blessing which only one who has lived in a hot country can appreciate.

One day Mateo came in and found me watching the big black fellow twist across the floor.

"Ah, Senor," said he, "it is not always the Queen's snakes are like this."

"How so?" I inquired.

The half-breed hesitated, as if he had said more than he had intended to say, and it was only when I had spoken more sharply to him than I had ever done before that he told me what he meant.

"One, two, three, four years ago," said he, counting back upon his fingers, the Spanish sent a ruler here to collect the tax-money, who did not make friends with the Queen. He called her a 'she-devil,' and after a time forbade the people to go to her for 'conjure-medicine' when they were sick. So after that, when he was here, they could only go at night.

"The next year he came again, and the next. This third time he brought a man with him who said he was a doctor from some great school in Madrid, sent out to gather animals, and birds, and plants, and snakes, though I see not what he could want of them. He brought guns, and ropes, and bottles of queer smelling water which would make you go to sleep. I know, because one day when they had both gone to the forest I smelled of a bottle of it and when I woke I was on the floor, and the bottle was broken beside me.

"Most the doctor man asked for a python, but could not find one. Then it was that some one who loved not the Voodoo Queen told the ruler that the Queen had at her home in the forest a python four times as long as the ruler was tall. Upon which the ruler sent word to the Queen to kill the snake and bring to him.

"'Does a mother slay her children at the bidding of a stranger?' was the answer she sent back.

"The next day the ruler and the doctor man took guns and a bottle of the queer smelling water, and went into the forest, to the home of the Queen, who lives in a cave. When they came back at night they brought a dead python with them, loaded upon a cart drawn by *carabaos*, (water buffalo.) The snake was in length, as had been told, full four times the height of the ruler, so long in fact, that when loaded on the cart his tail dragged upon the ground. They left him in a corner of the room, the doctor man saying he would skin him in the morning.

"The next morning the ruler did not call me as usual, before breakfast. I waited, and so did the other servants, until the time was very late, and then we just peeped in between the slats of bamboo.

"Ugh!" Mateo made a gesture of disgust. "The ruler and the doctor man were both dead *on the floor*. Their faces were black as the Voodoo Queen's, and their tongues stuck out, so," running his own tongue out to all its generous length.

"The snake was gone.

"Some said he only had been put to sleep by the queer smelling water, and waking, had killed them in his coils, and then gone back to his mountain home. Others said his mate, following the trail on the ground where the dead snake had dragged behind the *carabaos* cart, had come in the night to avenge his death, bearing away the body. Still others said the Voodoo Queen had wrought a powerful conjure-charm. I know not, I only know the men were dead, that we buried them, and that no one was sorry. When the boat came for them we said a snake had killed them. The boat went away and no other men have come until you."

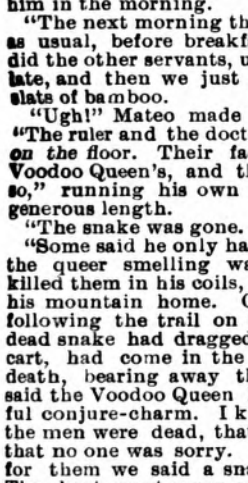
I passed no more nights in the bedroom of the government house, but that very day hired the loftiest house I could find, set on posts a good fifteen feet from the ground. I slept with the jalousies down, too, feeling satisfied with what fresh air came in through the cracks of the bamboo wall. The Queen's snakes might be of different kinds, and come on different errands, but I would take no chances.

And when the gunboat put in with word that she had been intercepted by a cruiser bearing orders for us all to return to Manila at once, I was not sorry to leave Cagayan, to which, so far as I know, no other white man has gone to dispute, or share, the rule of the Voodoo Queen.

HARVEY BAXTER'S SECRET.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MISS C. D. GILBERT.

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"SHE'S not the wife for him."

This was the verdict of all the women and all the men, too, when "splendid Harvey Baxter" took "frivolous Maud Wheeler" for his wife. But if Harvey were dissatisfied, he gave no sign, and certainly Maud was as well contented as it was in her nature to be.

About two years after the wedding, Mrs. Huntley, who had been one of the most disapproving of Harvey's friends, received a visit from an old school friend, Mrs. Waller, and her daughter Margaret; and a part of the conversation which took place as they drove about town one afternoon was as follows:

"I want to ask you about Harvey Baxter," said Mrs. Waller. "It was when we were visiting you before we went to Europe two years ago that he was married after a short engagement. Everybody was astonished and said that Maud Wheeler wasn't half good enough for him."

"Everybody was mistaken," Mrs. Huntley replied. "Maud Wheeler was a thousand times too good for him for he turned out to be a scamp."

"What! Harvey Baxter a scamp!" exclaimed Mrs. Waller. "I thought he was considered to be the soul of honor."

"And so he was. He would have been trusted with untold gold by any one who knew him. Nevertheless he is working out a ten years' sentence in prison.

"After their marriage Harvey Baxter took his wife to Taylor's hotel, for Maud did not wish to have the care of housekeeping; neither was she willing to live with her father in the suburbs. She had been motherless from early childhood and had grown up selfish and exacting. Some people considered her even unprincipled. Hence the greater wonderment that such a man as Harvey was supposed to be should marry her. My own opinion was that he suddenly became aware that she was a woman and not the child he had always considered her (for he was fifteen years older than she, and was her father's friend), and that she expected it of him. I thought at the time that he had no sense of honor. But I am digressing.

"One morning quite a sensation was created in the hotel by the disappearance of a set of rubies belonging to one of the regular boarders. The case was put into the hands of a detective but no clew could be found. From time to time other articles of value were missed, and finally all the house servants were dismissed. For a time all was quiet: then several articles disappeared in one day. The next morning a chamber maid found a diamond ring on the floor of Harvey Baxter's room near his trunk. Supposing that it belonged in the room, she picked it up intending to put it in a safe place; but noticing that the initials inside were not those of either Harvey or his wife, she put it back where she had found it, and at once reported to the office. She was sent to her own room and not allowed to leave it until an officer had been summoned and Harvey Baxter's room searched, which was done in the presence of himself and his wife.

"Maud was much agitated during the proceedings, and when the articles were found and she heard her husband's confession, she fainted in his arms. One little diamond pin bearing the initials O.H. has never been found, and the thief could not be induced to give any account of it."

"But Harvey Baxter did not take the things!" exclaimed Margaret Waller, her eyes gleaming with indignation, "the real thief put them in his trunk of course."

"That is what we all should have thought, my dear, had he not confessed. But when he found that he was caught, he owned that he was the thief."

"Harvey Baxter a thief, and by his own confession!" The girl's cheek paled then flushed.

"I am sure he is innocent," she said quietly and spoke no more on the subject.

"I had forgotten that you and Harvey were excellent friends at one time," said Mrs. Huntley; "perhaps I should not have told the story. However, there is a little more to tell."

They had indeed been excellent friends, Margaret Waller and Harvey Baxter; but if at the time of the marriage, Margaret had entertained any sentiment other than that shared by all Harvey's friends, she had in no way betrayed it.

"Harvey would never tell how he obtained the articles nor why he took them," Mrs. Huntley continued after a pause. "He certainly had no need of money, for he had a comfortable property and a large income from his business. Fortunately he has no near relatives.

"Maud went back to her father's house. He passed away a month ago. She died last week of a broken heart. She had the sympathy of every one, including those who most disapproved of her in her prosperity. Poor Maud!"

"Hers is indeed a sad history," said Mrs. Waller. "Is it known whether or not her husband showed any feeling when he received the news of her death?"

"It is reported that he was much affected. He and Maud had kept up a correspondence in spite of the father's wishes to the contrary."

The conversation drifted into other channels and the subject was not renewed that day; but the girl with the tender grey eyes, who sat on the front seat of the carriage—well, never mind.

The next morning Mrs. Huntley in a state of excitement entered the room in which her guests were sitting.

"Here is great news!" she exclaimed. "Harvey Baxter is innocent and is coming home."

"What! Why! How!" exclaimed Mrs. Waller; while Margaret sat with clinched hands and a strange light in her eyes.

"It seems," said Mrs. Huntley, "that in her last hours Maud put into her uncle's hand a letter which she charged him as a sacred duty to have published. Here is the morning paper, and this is the letter:

"'To the Public: I feel that death is near and before it is too late, I wish to repair, as far as possible, a cruel wrong.

"'I call God to witness that every word which I write here is true. Harvey Baxter is innocent. I alone am guilty of the crimes which he is supposed to have committed, and for which he is now suffering imprisonment.

"'My object in stealing was to get more money to waste than the very liberal allowance granted me before marriage by my father, after marriage by my husband.

"'The habit of appropriating what belonged to others was contracted in my girlhood. I first took money from my father's drawer to meet some extravagance which my allowance would not cover. The habit grew upon me, until my only thought was to get all I could without being detected. Many servants were dismissed on account of the thefts I had committed. This did not disturb me.

"'The most of my thieving at Taylor's hotel was carried on during the absence of my fellow-boarders; but in a few cases almost under their eyes. Generally I obtained permission (under one pretext or another, to sit by their windows if they were pleasanter than mine, sometimes to consult their books of reference) to occupy their rooms for a time while they were absent; then I made the most of my opportunity to ascertain the whereabouts of their jewels, generally carrying away one or two articles. On several occasions I have appropriated small articles from jewel cases left open on the dressing-cases, even when the owners sat within six feet of me.

"'I had no conscientious scruples whatever. On the contrary, I felt some pride in the skill to which I had attained. But I feared detection and punishment. This is why I concealed the articles in my husband's trunk. I expected to dispose of them before he should have occasion to open it; but I could never get the courage to pawn them. At the time of the search, when the trunk was opened I was almost beside myself. I grasped my husband's arm and whispered in his ear, "Harvey, save me!" He answered, "I will!" and I knew that at any cost he would keep his word. When the missing articles were brought to light, he turned to the officer and said, "I give myself up. I am guilty." Then I fainted.

"'The diamond pin was concealed, at the time of the search, under the trimming of my gown. Now it can be found under the covering of the red plush chair in my sitting-room.

"'Of my sins of theft and the greater one of allowing an innocent person to suffer in my stead, I have nothing further to say. As to punishment, it cannot be worse than the torture which I have experienced for the last fifteen months, nor greater than I deserve. May God have mercy on my soul.'"

MAUD BAXTER.

During the excited discussion which followed the reading of this letter, Margaret Waller slipped from the room. Her face was pale, but in her eye was a peculiar light which never could have shone there, had not the innocence of Harvey Baxter been brought to light.

Two years afterward as Harvey stood by his own fireside looking into the soft gray eyes of his wife, he whispered:

"Margaret, did you ever believe——"

"Never Harvey," Margaret replied, and this was the only reference to the painful subject ever made between them.

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The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.



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Silk Skirt $4.25



SILK SKIRTS

Suits, Waists and Cloaks in all the most beautiful effects shown in our free fashion catalogue, No. 70. Send for it.

Send no money, but just give your name and address, the number of the skirt desired, your waist measure and skirt length, and we will forward the garment C. O. D., with privilege of examination. You may examine and try the garment on at your nearest express office before paying the agent our special advertised price and charges.

No. 176. This magnificent pure black brocaded grosgraine or taffeta silk skirt is made in the very latest style, is very full in sweep and is well lined and interlined. Best workmanship throughout. Special advertised price, $4.25

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400 of the famous Iroquois Model 3 will be sold at $16.75 each, just one-third their real value. IROQUOIS CYCLE WORKS FAILED because their wheels were too expensively built, and we have bought the entire plant at a forced sale at 20 cents on the dollar. With it we got 400 Model 3 Iroquois Bicycles, finished and complete. Made to sell at $60. To advertise our business we have concluded to sell these 400 at just what they stand us, and make the marvelous offer of a Model 3 IROQUOIS BICYCLE at $16.75 while they last. The wheels are strictly up-to-date, famous everywhere for beauty and good quality. DESCRIPTON The Iroquois Model 3 is too well known to need a detailed description. Shelby 1¼ in. seamless tubing, improved two-piece crank, detachable sprockets, arch crown, barrel hubs and hanger, 2½ in. drop, finest nickel and enamel; colors, black, maroon and coach green; Gents' frames, 22, 24 and 26 in., Ladies' 22 in.; best "Record," guaranteed tires and high-grade equipment throughout. Our written guarantee with every bicycle. SEND ONE DOLLAR (or your express agent's guarantee for charges one way) state whether ladies' or gents', color and height of frame wanted, and we will ship C. O. D. for the balance ($15.75 and express charges), subject to examination and approval. If you don't find it the most wonderful Bicycle Offer ever made, send it back at our expense. Order To-day if you don't want to be disappointed. 50 cents discount for cash in full with order.

WE HAVE BICYCLES A complete line of '99 Models at $11.50 and up. Second-hand Wheels $3 to $10. We want RIDER AGENTS in every town to represent us. Hundreds earned their bicycle last year. This year we offer wheels and cash for work done for us; also Free Use of sample wheel to agents. Write for our liberal proposition. We are known everywhere as the greatest Exclusive Bicycle House in the world and are perfectly reliable; we refer to any bank or business house in Chicago, to any express company and to our customers everywhere. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago, Ill.

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EASY MUSIC CHAP.

COMFORT'S NEW CHART of CHORDS for the PIANO.

A New and Quick Method of Learning to Play the Piano or Organ Without a Teacher.

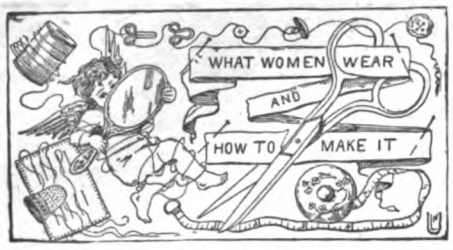


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There have been many so called easy methods and charts devised, but this is the latest and best. It is intended for those who have not the time to take lessons. A complete self-instructor, enabling anyone to play the piano or organ at sight. This chart is the practical result of years of study by a noted American composer and musician. With this chart anyone can become an expert pianist, playing accompaniments to the most difficult songs at sight, as well as dance music, marches, etc. These charts are valuable to the advanced musician as well as to the beginner, embracing nearly every major and minor chord used in music. It is the most comprehensive yet simplest chart ever published, and is endorsed by teachers and musicians everywhere.

To introduce "COMFORT'S CHART" in every home, we will send free with each chart the "GIANT ALBUM OF SONGS," containing 184 Songs with words and music, including the great hits, "I Won't be a Nun," and "The Mountain Maid's Invitation." Also old and new favorites, and war songs.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



BLOUSES are not dead. Once again I would reiterate this piece of information, knowing it will be hailed with delight by those who were once their devotees. There are many, many models being worked out on most persuasive lines by annexing the flat, rounded basque. So very fanciful has the blouse become that only a small amount of material is needed for the body, the tucked sleeves are usually of chiffon or net, as is the guimpe or vest; while for stock and belt, cross-wise folds of mirror velvet (no other appeals to me in the least), are the most effective and usual finish.

The world of fashion is running a mad race, indeed, we might almost call it the whirl of fashion. Vogues follow upon one another's heels so closely we barely grasp the full meaning of a new venture than something newer and more startling is thrust upon us attracting all our serious attention.

However, all aspirants to a fashionable figure must curtail every pronounced curve or flare, into a graceful, symmetrical length which trails the floor to the space of several inches, both behind and at the sides, and as long at the front as the wearer can possibly endure without constant tripping. Skirts of draped character in some quarters show forth a tendency to claim first place and are really fascinating to a degree. A smart model has the upper straight skirt lifted at the left hip well toward the back, the fullness arranged in box pleats fastened down by a row of small buttons. The skirt known as the "shawl" pattern is becoming very popular; to wear them with good effect, however, one must be tall and slim. Certainly they can be very, very nice, exceedingly becoming, infinitely charming. To make one successfully you need a good pattern, and, if you have a certain knowledge of dressmaking, you can provide yourself with a shapely and fashionable skirt. The upper portion of this skirt fits closely around the hips and hangs in loose graceful points at the front and back; it might almost be called a polonaise, a word which takes us back to visions of a strange-looking, and, to our modern eyes, hideous gown worn years ago. But the polonaise of to-day is of the same material as the skirt beneath, and is really only a competent part of it. Many of the best skirts remain untrimmed; after exhausting brains and purses in all manner of trimming the best modistes are wondering if a plain, or at most, very slightly trimmed skirt is not more becoming, and so we have a host of smart untrimmed skirts, showing that the proverbial fickle woman has returned to the first love.

Buttons are used elaborately as a trimming, and buckles too, are dear to the heart of the fashionable woman. There is no limit to the number she may wear at one time. Belt buckles are now quite out of the running; we have buckles on our hats, they fasten our skirts at the back, they close our ties at the throat, they gleam among the lace and chiffon of our evening gowns, they nestle in the cozy folds of trimming on our skirts, in fact, they are ubiquitous, and the makers of buttons and



OF BLACK GRENADINE.

buckles, have cause to thank that erratic Dame Fashion for this particular vagary. Buckles for the neck are bound to be extremely popular this summer; worn in the manner they now are, they do away largely with the tie. Any sort of ribbon desired is brought around the throat, drawing the linen collar in closely to the neck, the two parts of the buckle are separately attached to the ends of the ribbon, and it is clasped directly in front. It is a very smart and simple finish to be worn with shirt waists.

A peculiar sleeve was seen on a shirt waist of recent importation, made up of sheerest white muslin to be worn over a silk slip. This sleeve in question was wrinkled full from the shoulder to the elbow, from which point the sleeve took the form of a regular shirt sleeve finishing in a cuff at the wrist. Dressmakers in general seem to find it a great difficulty to find new and suitable finishings to the wrists of sleeves. Gown designers, however clever, both at home and abroad, seem to have a rooted dislike, or an inability to set forth new models for the hand trimming of sleeves. However all sorts of decorations, whatever is employed, still fall well over the hand. Elbow sleeves are extremely popular just now and are wonderfully effective when combined with a pretty arm.

Lace is largely employed as a trimming on summer gowns, adding to their airiness and delicacy. A charming illustration of this is shown in the sketch, "all-over" lace of a rather heavy pattern forming the lower part of the bodice, and upper portion of the skirt, of the dainty violet cashmere gown.

A second apt illustration of its use is shown in this case being black guipure applied in flat bands over dead white challie forming the gown. The use of black lace on light materials is being highly approved by the leading modistes. An especially fetching frock for summer wear is made up of grenadine, black, very lacey and open, showing sharp stripes



VIOLET CASHMERE AND LACE.

over the foundation of white satin. The top and bottom of the skirt flounce, as well as the smart little bodice, has an edging consisting of a four inch band of white ribbed silk set off with a piping of black velvet.

Dainty indeed are the materials being made up into gowns, each of which show some distinctive feature peculiar to the season. It is no unusual thing to see a gown of white muslin made up over a foundation consisting of firstly, a skirt of white taffeta provided with ruffles all down the back, and over this a skirt of lace edged muslin, coming directly under the outside covering. The effect is very misty and pretty, especially when the outside material is sufficiently filmy.

A stunning model I have noticed was for half mourning, made up in white muslin over white silk, all its tiny ruffles bound with tiny, narrow black velvet ribbon. The bodice has a dainty trimming of black velvet ribbon arranged in tiny lover's knots.

A particularly neat sleeve for a cloth gown has a smartly draped top brought about by a lattice-work arrangement of narrow velvet ribbon. The merest suggestion of fullness occurs in the shoulder of the latest sleeves, and it is kept as flat as possible.

The Breton cap is the latest millinery novelty, and is a charming shape and one eminently well suited to the young matron or woman past her first youth. Of course the cap worn by the Breton peasant is responsible for the evolvement, the lines at the back for the most part kept intact, though in front the milliner permits the indulgence of a gentle fantasy on the theme. A very dainty example was formed of black net spangled with jet sequins, having a little hanging curtain at the back of jetted net, a large and cleverly arranged bow of burnt orange mirror velvet and tulle filling in the entire front. And this color let me tell you all, is inclined to prove a serious rival to both pink and the shaded cyclamen shades which have been quoted as chief favorites of the hour. Though to be sure, there is comfort in the reflection that the color suited to one complexion is absolutely impossible to another.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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Standard makes. Everyone a bargain. Various styles. Highest grade high arm machines. We are closing out the stock of a well known make at less than factory cost. We are under contract not to advertise the name for at our prices it would ruin their agents. Don't miss this opportunity. WE GUARANTEE the machine for years — most for your money — satisfaction in every purchase. Shipped on approval. If not right don't keep it. A few good AGENTS WANTED.

BROWN-LEWIS CO., (E) 293 Wabash Ave., Chicago.
[This is an old house and reliable. Machine is a bargain—Editor.]

Invention of the Menu Card.



THE INVENTION of the menu card is attributed to Duke Henry of Brunswick, who was noticed by his guests at a banquet to frequently refer to a long strip of paper which lay by his plate. At last one, more curious or bolder than the rest, asked him why he did so. Duke Henry replied that the paper was a kind of program of the dishes which he had ordered his cook to prepare for the feast, and that he consulted it from time to time to see if there were any coming delicacy for which it would be well to reserve his appetite. The convenience and desirability of the idea was appreciated by the guests, and from that moment the menu card became an institution. At first it was written large, so that there was room on the table for only two copies, one at either end of the board. In dinners in medieval times this list would seem to be a necessity even more than at present, for, although dinners were then divided into courses as in modern times there was no regularity to the courses, and one never knew in an "early English" dinner, what was coming next, whether fish, flesh, fowl or sweetmeats.

To remedy squeaking shoes stand the shoe in a tin plate containing just enough turpentine to touch the inner sole without reaching the upper leather. Let it soak for a day and then dry for two days before wearing, when it will be found that the shoes are not only noiseless but waterproof, and will wear much longer than without this application. Another method of breaking a shoe of squeaking is to bore a hole with a small gimlet through the inside sole near the instep. This lets out the air between the soles, and so stops the squeak. Two little slips of rubber are now often fastened across the sole of a baby's shoes at the ball of the foot to prevent the tendency to slip back which so troubles master baby when he makes his first efforts at waiking.

Geologists say that the earth is at least 21,000,000 years old; that is, it is that long since the soil first formed. It is also estimated that man appeared 100,000 years ago.

Gold Plated Chatelaine FREE

NO MONEY REQUIRED.



Your choice of this beautiful gold plated Chatelaine, or a gold filled ring, for selling 20 of our

LADIES' GOLD PLATED BEAUTY PINS AT 5 CENTS EACH.
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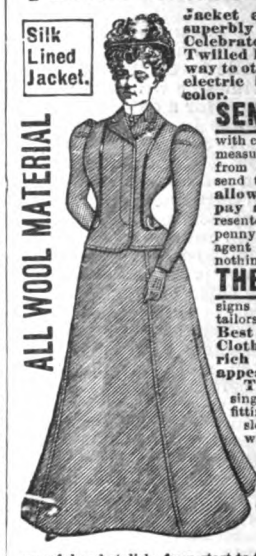
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Tailor Made Suit $4.98

Silk Lined Jacket.

ALL WOOL MATERIAL



Jacket elegantly silk lined, skirt superbly finished; made from Dahl's Celebrated Fast Color All-wool Fine Twilled Ladies' Cloth; equal every way to others $10 Suits. Choice of electric blue, navy blue or black color.

SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. with color desired; give bust and waist measure, length of skirt (down front) from skirtband to bottom and we'll send the suit by express C.O.D. and allow you to try it on before you pay a cent. If found just as represented, a perfect fit and worth every penny of $10.00, then pay the express agent $4.98 and expressage. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory.

THE SUIT is made by expert men tailors over designs drawn by that king of ladies' tailors, M. LaRochelle, from Dahl's Best All Wool Fast Color Ladies' Cloth, famous everywhere for its rich soft bloom and beautiful appearance.

The Jacket is made in latest single-breasted style, with tight-fitting back and new fashionable sleeves, it is superbly trimmed with fine satin bands, artistically double silk-stitched and elaborately lined with real French Silk of beautiful colorings and exquisite designs. The Skirt is splendidly lined, has new fan back, nobby welted seams, is four yards wide and hangs graceful and stylish; from start to finish the suit's tailor-made and worth fully $10.00.

SILLY FOOLISH FIRMS advertise Repellant cloth suits as "wool;" they don't say All Wool as we do, but "wool" in order to mislead you. All Repellant cloth is shoddy and half cotton, it's worthless. Order their suits and ours, then choose between them. Write for our Big Free Bargain Catalogue of other Suits, Skirts, Capes, Jackets, etc.

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FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin that are just what ladies want for crazy patch-work. We were fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special PANIC PACKAGES to any one sending 10c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, the Prize Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant piece of SILK PLUSH contain 36 square inches, together with five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; three 25c. lots for 65c., five for $1.00.

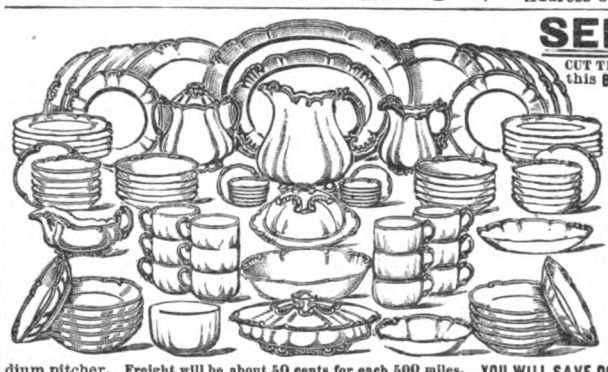


A Cute Foot-Rest FREE.

Useful Ornaments are sought after at all seasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of goods that are sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could never be obtained at a low price before (they sell for $1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out by machines in pretty colored durable goods, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California. It comes in the shape of a handsome Spaniel *Bow-Wow*, lying down, size about 8x12 inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not in use by grandma or yourself or company as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is so life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, 57,396 have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find them great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start with.

BIG OFFER. We will send a sample postpaid to anyone sending 13c., for a three months' subscription to this paper. Two Rests and this paper 6 months for 25c.; five for 50c.; one dozen, $1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants 20c.; one Rest and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c.

Address COMFORT PUB. Co., Box 133, Augusta, Maine.



SEND ONE DOLLAR

CUT THIS AD. OUT and send to us, and we will send you this BIG NEW-STYLE 100-PIECE VITREOUS WHITE CHINA DINNER SET by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and THE GREATEST VALUE YOU EVER HEARD OF, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL OFFER PRICE $5.95 less the $1.00, or $4.95, and freight charges.

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THIS SET CONSISTS OF 100 PIECES

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YOU WILL SAVE ONE-HALF IN PRICE. ORDER NOW; DON'T DELAY.
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SILVER CAKE BASKET FREE FREE



We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have [illegible] of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A Month in Our New Possessions.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



BUT a few years ago it would hardly have been expected that any happenings in a house such as is here pictured would call attention to it from every part of civilized Europe, and particularly would this have been true had it been added that the hut was in a far-off island of the South Pacific. And yet to-day events are transacting around this one house, which is that of the German consul at Apia, Samoa, which threatens the peace of three of the great powers, United States, England and Germany.

Most of our readers will remember that some years ago there was international trouble caused by the conduct of the native population in the Samoan islands. There was a civil war over the possession of the throne between two rivals. The same three powers were interested then as now, but the subject is particularly remembered from the fact that a number of vessels from the three navies were there and were overtaken in the harbor by a fearful storm which wrecked several of the warships, among them two American vessels. It was an appalling disaster and was only brightened by the brave heroism of the sailors generally. Then as now Britain and America were united and Germany on the other side; but after a long diplomatic discussion one of the rival claimants of the throne was recognized and a new government established under a tripartite arrangement of the Powers by which their respective consuls acted as a sort of executive council, while an American was made Chief Justice.

The arrangement has worked fairly well, although scarcely satisfactorily, until recently when further trouble came from the uprising of a band of rebels, who desired to place another claimant on the throne, Mataafa. Under the agreement the matter was left to the Chief Justice, who reported against him. It is said that Mataafa was supported by the German consul and Apia was taken by the insurgents. At this time there were no American ships there and the single British man-of-war was actively engaged in protecting British and Americans alike. The cruiser *Philadelphia* commanded by Admiral Kautz of our navy soon arrived and a conference was held upon her by the consuls. Orders were given for the dispersion of Mataafa's army; but he, evidently relying on German aid continued in rebellion.

These troubles soon took a new turn, which resulted in a bombardment of several towns by the *Philadelphia* and the British ships *Porpoise* and *Royalist*, which lasted intermittently for eight days. A number of the allied sailors were killed or injured; but no estimate of the native loss has been made.

As Mataafa and his chiefs forming a provisional government continued to defy the treaty after the *Philadelphia's* arrival, Admiral Kautz, the consuls and interested parties resolved to dismiss them; but they were upheld and incited in rebellion by Herr Rose, the German consul, and finally opened fire on our ships as above stated. The Americans and British since then have been fighting together splendidly.

As soon as this news reached New Zealand it was telegraphed all over the world from Auckland. It created wild excitement and another war seemed probable; but the unbending attitude of England and America brought serious second thought and after the usual diplomatic exchanges, it has practically been decided to retain the present agreement until a commission of one high officer from each government, shall visit the islands and examine into the condition of the surroundings and lay out a plan for the future. It is to be regretted that the support of the German consul, Herr Rose, has encouraged the insurrection. Soon after the crowning of the new king, Tanu, under the English and American support, a large force of American and British sailors were ambushed while on an exploring expedition. They fought an overwhelming force of natives but escaped with the loss of a few officers and men. President McKinley here as in the Philippines seems anxious to have a strong native government in whatever shape may be most satisfactory for the island inhabitants.

It may be interesting for COMFORT's readers to know that the Samoan islands are not valuable on account of commerce but of their importance as the sites of future coaling and naval stations. It is a group having an aggregate territory of some 1700 square miles, and a population of about 36,000 people, of whom about 200 are British subjects, 125 Germans, 25 French and about the same number of Americans, with a sprinkling of other nations; the rest of the population is Polynesian. We have devoted considerable space to a matter now practically closed up; but it is one of the trivial incidents that often bring on great wars, although of themselves insignificant; and because as Americans we must now accustom ourselves to read and study about distant countries which must be more or less directly controlled by our own country now one of the great powers of the world.



GEN. LLOYD WHEATON.

At the present time there is little to say of Cuba. The administration as we narrated last month sent $3,000,000 to pay off the Cuban soldiers. The Cuban assembly, a sort of self-constituted provisional government denounced Gomez as a traitor and removed him from command of the Cuban army because he had used his good office to bring about this settlement. Unfortunately for them they had to deal with the inflexible power of Gen. Brooke who refused to distribute the money excepting on his own terms. As to the assembly it debated and resolved daily until it adjourned; but no one seems to have taken it very seriously nor does the average newspaper reader know what it all means. On the whole it may be said Cuban affairs are satisfactory. As to Porto Rico our commission has returned full of praises for the rapid progress being made under American rule. Notwithstanding some slight jealousies there seems to be no doubt that Porto Rico is fast becoming Americanized and in a satisfactory way.

Though hardly to be classed as one of our possessions as our title would indicate, the affairs of China are now of intense interest to our readers on account of our prominent position in the East. The demands of Italy for a harbor and coaling station at San Mun, which caused such a commotion in Europe a month ago, now seems to be in a fair way to be acceded



REAR ADMIRAL KAUTZ.

to. It is understood that Italy asks a ninety-nine year lease of San Mun Bay, together with certain islands and railroad and mining concessions covering the larger part of the province of Che-Kiang; although the Chinese foreign office refused at first, the attitude of Great Britain renders it probable that the demands will be granted. It seems as if this will greatly hasten the partition of China.

The newspapers for the past month have been full of the valorous deeds of our soldiers in the East. So long as the treaty was not ratified the natives were in rebellion against Spain and the Americans were confined to Manila proper. With the ratification of peace the Filipinos become rebels against the authority of the United States. Under this status offensive operations were commenced and there has been a continuous campaign for a month. The losses to the Filipinos have been tremendous and their capital, Malalos, fell. Everywhere the rebels have been defeated but they have great advantages and in guerilla fighting, to which this war will finally descend, they will be able to make quite a long fight. Meantime, it seems probable that President McKinley will have to call for more volunteers as large numbers of troops have to be withdrawn for garrisons in captured islands and cities. Gen. Lloyd Wheaton has made an enviable record in the campaign and shown himself a leading general.

The proclamation of the Philippine Commission (which was sent by President McKinley to ascertain the exact condition of the islands and the people, and has been at Manila for the past month observing the situation and studying the conditions of the situation), has been distributed. The high character of the gentlemen comprising this Commission is ample guarantee that whatever report is made will be the result of careful study and the most judicial decision. The men who form the Commission are expert students, and men who have in public and private life been constantly connected with the affairs of America in China and the East. On the fourth of April, after the fall of the Filipino rebel capital, Malolos, the proclamation of the Philippine Commission was issued in English, Spanish and Tagalmano.

The preamble recites the cession by treaty of the Philippine Islands to the United States, and refers to the appointment of the Commission, assuring the people of the cordial good will and fraternal feeling of President McKinley and the American people; and asserts that the object which the United States government apart from the fulfillment of its solemn obligations has assumed toward the family of nations by the assumption of this sovereignty over the islands, is the well being, prosperity and happiness of the Filipino people and their elevation and advancement to a position among the civilized nations of the world, which the President believes will be best brought about by the cultivation of letters, science and the liberal and practical arts; by the enlargement of intercourse with foreign nations, the expansion of industrial pursuits by trade and commerce; by the multiplication and improvement of the means of internal communications; and by the development of the resources of this great archipelago. But unfortunately the pure motives of the American government towards the people have been misinterpreted to some of the inhabitants of certain islands; and in consequence the friendly forces have been openly attacked. The proclamation, after arguing the needs of the Filipinos and that they can best be conserved by submission to the American government, guarantees to spread peace and happiness among the people, with rightful freedom to accustom them to free self government, encourage domestic aspirations, sentiments and ideas, which are the promise of patriotism and fruitful national development. In conclusion it is stated that the Commission will visit the Philippine provinces to ascertain the enlightened native opinion as to the forms of government adapted to the people, and conformable with their traditions and ideals, asking leading representative men to meet the Commission and to consult the wishes and secure the advice and co-operation of the people.

The proclamation proper contains eleven articles declaring America's intentions, which commences with the fact that the supremacy of the United States must and will be enforced throughout every part of the archipelago. Liberty and self-government is promised; the civil rights of the Filipinos are guaranteed and protected, as well as religious freedom; honest and effective civil service promises the collection and application of the revenues on a sound and economical basis with honest fiscal administration; reduction of taxation; future speedy and effective administration of justice without delay or corruption; concentration of the roads, railroads, and other means of communication and transportation; development of foreign trade, commerce, and industrial pursuits; effective provision for elementary schools; and reforms in every department of the government and the people themselves.

Speaking of the proclamation, Dr. Schurman, President of the Commission, says: "The Filipinos have been asking unceasingly, 'What do you propose to do for us?'" The proclamation answers the question and should satisfy them. Col. Charles Denby, former Minister to China, and a member of the present Commission said: "It is the most important proclamation since the Declaration of Independence." This proclamation has been distributed in all parts of the islands accessible to American troops, and has been received with great favor by the native Filipinos.

As might have been expected of the gallant ship which has proven such a record breaker, the *Oregon* swept into Manila at full speed on the evening of March 18th just as the sun went down. Notwithstanding her long voyage around the Horn and her quick flight from Hawaii, Admiral Dewey was able to cable that she arrived fit for immediate duty. It is to be regretted that the appropriation necessary for the immediate laying of a submarine telegraph from San Francisco to Honolulu was omitted from the bill when reported back to Congress from the conference committee. This cable and the Nicaraguan canal are of the greatest necessity to this country; but through opposition of certain members of both branches, Congress failed to make the necessary appropriation of money for these two great projects. They are certain to come later, but are necessary now, and the people of this country desire their early completion.

HAVE YOU WEAK LUNGS?

Every Sufferer from Lung Weakness, Consumption, Asthma, Catarrh or Bronchitis Can Be Cured.



Nearly everybody you meet will regard it as a kind of insult to be asked if they have weak lungs. All seem to have a solid faith in the soundness of their own breathing machine. In cases of trouble they will admit there is a "heavy cold," "a touch of bronchitis," or even "a spell of asthma," but as to weak or unsound lungs, never, NEVER. Even the poor consumptive, who scarcely speaks without coughing, whose cheeks are wasted, hollow and bear the hectic flush of doom, will assure you with glistening eyes that his cold is on the mend and he will be all right when the weather changes.

It is simply terrible to think how far we may be guilty by our indifference to the lung troubles of those near and dear to us. It is also a sad thought that we may hug a delusion as to our own health that we only get rid of when life itself must pay the forfeit.

Nobody can afford to think lightly of lung troubles. Nobody can afford to be mistaken about their possible dangers. Nobody can afford to neglect them, or "let them wear out," or "get better in the spring," or any other tomfoolery that leads only to wreck and ruin. Lung troubles don't move backward. Weak lungs don't grow strong by themselves—you must heal them and strengthen them, and rid them of the very earliest germs of disease, or you are simply committing a form of suicide. Either you must cure your lung troubles or THEY WILL KILL YOU. That's the whole situation in a nutshell.

Never was there a cure for lung troubles equal to the newly-discovered Dr. Slocum treatment. This forms a system of Four Remedies that are used simultaneously and supplement each other's curative action. It cures weak lungs, bronchitis, asthma, coughs, consumption and every other ailment of the pulmonary region. It destroys every germ that can affect the respiratory system, and even in advanced stages of lung trouble positively arrests the tubercular growth, while it also builds up the patient so that his system is enabled to throw off scrofula, rheumatism, catarrh and other wasting diseases.

Thousands of cured cases already prove these claims. Thousands of grateful people bless the discovery.

The Doctor wants everybody to know the surprising merits of his system. He has arranged to give a free treatment (Four Preparations) to all sufferers. Full instructions for use accompany each treatment.

WRITE TO THE DOCTOR.

Write at once to Dr. T. A. Slocum, 96 and 98 Pine street, New York City, giving name, express and postoffice address, and mention reading this article in COMFORT.

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RUBENS DANTE TASSO MURILLO ANGELO RAPHAEL



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE subject of sofa cushions and covers for same, is always an interesting one, for we all know how prone they are to soiling, fading, wearout and otherwise making themselves anything but a thing of beauty,—and that a sofa pillow that is soiled or has seen its best days is an eyesore to every dainty woman. And yet, when you need from one to two dozen of these charming accessories, how hard it is to keep them always in perfect condition.

White China silk is perhaps the best, coolest, and in every way the most desirable of materials for cushion covers,—owing to its perfect cleansing qualities and its durability, but one doesn't want all the covers made of it.

A very handsome pillow cover was recently made from a light shade of blue art linen and decorated with drawn work. A border three inches in depth was drawn all around the pillow, at a distance of three inches from the outer edge. The threads were not drawn entirely across each side, but to within three inches of the edge, thus bringing all the drawn work within an exact square. At the corners of this square, which of course would be left entirely open, quite a solid form is to be worked. This may be a spider-web stitch, or any similar form which fills in a square well. The drawn threads on each side may be worked with as simple or with as elaborate a stitch as the worker chooses to employ. The work is to be done with a dark shade of blue silk which forms a pretty contrast to the light blue of the art linen. The pillow is to be made up over any chosen contrasting color, and finished with a ruffle of the art linen, or with a large cord. The cords are newer than the ruffles, and are very much liked. They are as large as the finger, and come in white and colors. The one chosen for this pillow may be of either the light or dark blue. The finished pillow is very handsome.

A second pillow, while simpler to work and requiring less knowledge of elaborate stitches, is very effective and dainty. It is made from the checked linen which is used as a foundation for so many pretty pillow covers. But while the foundation material is not new the method of working is different from any heretofore seen, and the effect is much like that of drawn work when seen at a short distance. The pillow described was of red and white checks, but of course any preferred color may be used instead of the red, as the linen comes in blue, yellow and green, each in combination with white. The piece of linen chosen was in even checks, each about one-half an inch square, and all the work was done upon the solid red blocks. The Battenburg thread is used for working as this is of sufficient size to show effectively, and produces the lacelike effect which gives the pillow its charm. Work the first solid red square with a Greek cross in the Battenburg thread. Start from the middle of the check and carry the thread to the outer edge of one side and to within one-fourth of the length of the side from the right-hand corner. Go back to the center and make the corresponding line from there to within the same distance from the left-hand corner. Next carry the thread across the edge between the ends of these two stitches. This forms one of the four sides of the cross. Repeat the form, making it each time from the center to one of the sides of the block or check, and the result will give the Greek cross, outlined in white on the red. In the next red check make a spider web stitch. To do this cross the check from corner to corner, and from side to side, making eight lines radiating from the center. Bring the needle through from beneath in the middle, and pass the thread around the center weaving it under and over the radiating threads. As there are an even number of threads it will be necessary to pass the needle under or over two each time the circle is completed, in order that each succeeding circle may alternate with the last. Continue this weaving until the check is about half covered with the web, then draw the thread through to the wrong side and fasten. Alternate the Greek cross and the spider web on the red checks, both up and down and across, until the cover is completed. The pillow is to be made up with a ruffle of the checked linen, or with a double ruffle of plain red under plain white. The latter better carries out the plan of the pillow cover, as when completed it looks like drawn work over a red foundation. This ruffle may be continuous, or it may be made in four parts, leaving the corners open. The latter is the newer style. The hem of the ruffles may be feather-stitched, using red on the white ruffle. Even a nicer finish is given by hemstitching the white ruffle, thus showing the red beneath to better advantage, and making the whole pillow especially dainty.



Cord edges are very popular for many styles of pillows, and are taking the place of ruffles to a great extent. A novel finish was recently given a dainty pillow with especially good effect. A puff of the goods was set in all around when the back and front were put together. This puff was just large enough to draw the large finishing cord through, and formed a full casing for it. By this means the edge had a solid roll effect, closely shirred. A piece of white cotton rope could be used in place of the finishing cord quite as well if it is to be drawn through a puff as just described.

Jewel embroidery on dotted muslin is one of the simplest forms of embroidery, and in its very simplicity lies much of its charm. It can be done by anyone familiar with the use of the needle, requires no stamped pattern, and is very inexpensive. The work is done by working with Asiatic filo silk over the dots of the muslin, completely covering each dot with closely set parallel rows of stitches. Muslin with any sized dots can be used, and whatever the size of the dot the stitches are taken from side to side, in what is known as satin stitch. The coin sized dots are more effective than the very small ones, but this is largely a matter of taste, and is determined also by the character of the article for which the embroidery is used.

A very dainty pillow cover could be made in this way. There should be an undercover of white, and then the outer should be cut to fit of the dotted muslin. Dots the size of a ten cent piece look well for a rather small square pillow, and the "quarter" dots for a full sized pillow. The upper cover of the pillow should have its dots covered with the silk, using one shade for all. The under side of the cover needs no embroidery. The pillow should be finished with a ruffle, also of the dotted muslin, but the dots of the ruffle are not to be worked. Instead turn the hem, and baste down. Then cover its edge with one row of baby ribbon of the shade of the silk used in covering the dots. Such a pillow is very dainty for the parlor, or for a young girl's room. The color of silk employed should be governed by the furnishings of the room in which it is to be placed. A very light shade of this same color may be used for the under case instead of white if preferred.

The long narrow pincushion now so much used may be made up of the dotted muslin with good effect. The covers for these cushions are five inches wide and from fourteen to eighteen inches long, eighteen being the extreme. These are made with an under cover of white or color, and with a ruffle around the four sides. The dots for this should be smaller than for the pillows; those the size of the end of a lead pencil being large enough. For the cushion you may use a single color for all the dots, or you may follow the jewel effect more closely, and embroider the dots in a variety of colors, alternating the colors so that they shall be well balanced, but not perfectly regular. If you have a few threads of different colors left from other embroidery, this is an admirable way to use them. If you buy new silks for the purpose and want to have the real jeweled effect, choose those colors which correspond with the gems as largely as possible. If an under color has been used, make a ruffle of the same to lie under the muslin ruffle, but if the foundation is of white, then a pretty finish for the cushion is made by adding a full cluster of loops of baby ribbon at one corner. Have almost as many colors of ribbon in this cluster as there are colors in your jewels, and be sure to match them nicely. Such a cushion is very bright and attractive, and yet has a dainty air which adds to the furnishing of the dresser.



The embroidered muslin may also be made up into glove and handkerchief cases, finishing the edges with a ruffle, or with a silk cord which corresponds with the embroidery in color.

Pillows for the baby's carriage may be embroidered in pale blue or pink, and an exquisite crib or carriage blanket may be made up with the muslin as an outer cover, over a delicate color or over white.

Other uses for this embroidery will be thought of by anyone accustomed to fancy work, and seldom can as good results be obtained with as little labor, while if the Asiatic filo is used the work can be washed any number of times without fading.

Odd in name, very dainty in design are the corset covers which make a part of the trousseau of the modern bride. They are called "Marguerites". All sorts of delicate fabrics are employed for them, Indian linen, nainsook, fine checked dimity, and wash silks plain or checked, are among the materials chosen. The form of the garment is very simple, and one may easily be cut without a pattern. There are but two pieces and the general design may be seen in the small diagram shown in the illustration. The Marguerite is cut wide so that it can be slipped on over the head without an opening in the front, and all that is actually made to *fit* is the armhole. An open insertion, called a beading, is sewed around the neck and armholes, and a dainty lace edge is sewed to the beading. A narrow ribbon is run through the beading and tied in a bow at the front of each armhole. That at the neck serves to draw the garment up after it is put on, and gives a pretty fullness about the shoulders. Some of the Marguerites come just to the waist line and are finished there with the beading and a ribbon to draw it into place, while others are made longer and have a casing at the waist line.

These are the main features of the garment, but there are endless ways of finishing and trimming them. The "Susans" are like the Marguerites in form, but are trimmed in a distinct style. The four diagonal corners of a fancy handkerchief, lace-trimmed or embroidered, are sewed to the neck of the garment so that they shall fall below the beading and lace. Two of the corners are sewed on over the shoulders and the other two across the front. Only those thus trimmed are termed "Susans."

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Some of the Marguerites are finished with one or two rows of insertion set in below the beading of the neck; others are trimmed with bows of insertion up and down the front. The trimming is always of lace, as anything else would prove too heavy for the delicate fabrics employed.

Sometimes the form of the garment is varied slightly. A French back is used with a seam down the middle. This makes the back fit closer, and takes away from the fullness across the shoulders. Still another variation is made in the front of some, for instead of cutting this in one piece like the back, it is cut in two pieces which correspond at the side to the sides of the back piece, but which extend toward the front in two long tapering points. These ends are intended to be tied together in a full, soft bow. The edges are finished with lace, and the bow not only makes a very pretty finish, but gives the necessary fullness which in the other style is imparted by drawing up the width with a ribbon.

Many young girls who enjoy doing fine handwork, keep a Marguerite on their work table ready to take up while visiting with a friend; and that a Marguerite or a Susan makes one of the most acceptable of gifts may be readily proved by consulting any woman who likes dainty lingerie.

Very elaborate indeed are the new decorations of embroidery and lace combined, which are shown in the newest table linens. These pieces are used for tables upon which bric-a-brac is placed, even more than for the dining table. For the latter they are appropriate only upon the most formal occasions. They look particularly handsome upon the polished wood of a mahogany dining table, without the usual tablecloth as an underlay.

The centerpieces are of fine linen of heavy quality, with the outer edge stamped in a Battenburg lace pattern of considerable depth. The width of the pattern depends upon the size of centerpiece, but it is always deep enough to be rich and heavy. An embroidery pattern is also stamped upon the linen, usually in sprays of flowers in their natural size, and with no attempt at conventionality. The effect is almost as though the blossom with its long stem and a few leaves had been laid upon the linen and lace with unstudied effect. The design is so placed that while the main part of it falls upon the linen, a part of the spray, perhaps a single great rose, falls on the lace. In second spray, worked on another side of the same piece, a cluster of leaves will fall over apparently, upon the heavy lace edge.

All sorts of flowers are used for embroidering these centerpieces. Among those best liked are roses, sweet peas, narcissi, and orchids. The only restriction as to choice of flowers is that those must be chosen which can be worked in their natural size, and after the choice is made the design must be a natural sketch, in order that the effect may be as described, that of a branch or cluster dropped upon the white background of linen and lace.

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THIS MACKINTOSH is made of BLACK or BLUE genuine RAINGLEY double texture, waterproof SERGE CLOTH, with fancy plaid lining, velvet collar, double detachable cape, extra full sweep cape and skirt, guaranteed latest style and finest tailor-made.

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Please mention COMFORT when you write.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

George H. Jordan,	$3.00
Florence Stevens,	2.50
Shell F. Acree,	2.00
Morton Fielding,	1.50
Effie C. Bryant,	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Spring is now fairly upon us, and the inspiration of its presence makes itself felt. New life awakes within us, new desires, new hopes, new resolves. With the coming of the bees and the birds, with the opening of the flowers and the spreading green of the trees the longing grows strong within us to be also up and doing, to break away from the treadmill of work and roam out into the world in search of the new and the beautiful. Nay, more, to make of ourselves something larger and better than we have yet become: Were it not for these moments of inspiration, which come to us, it may be, through the *slightest* of causes, what mere lifeless clods we should become, plodding on drearily in one interminable round, with no aspirations for anything better or nobler, until death should put an end to it all.

With these thoughts in our minds let us read, in our first letter for the month, of the noble work being accomplished in Tuskegee, Ala., to benefit the colored race, and of the earnest efforts of the colored people themselves to profit by what is offered them, and so to broaden and deepen their lives in every possible way.

"In the heart of the 'Black Belt,' at Tuskegee, Alabama, is an institution for the education and development of the colored race which has accomplished so much that it has attracted the attention of educators all over the United States. These believe that the course of instruction taught at Tuskegee will in time solve the problem which has puzzled educators and philanthropists both North and South for the past thirty years.

"Mr. Booker Washington, the founder of this school and its mainspring, was born a slave. By his own persistent and unremitting efforts he secured an education at the Hampton Institute in Virginia. Coming to Tuskegee in the year 1881, he rented an old frame church and started a school for the colored people with only thirty pupils, working out by it some original ideas and plans.



MR. BOOKER WASHINGTON.

"Receiving contributions and assistance as he made his needs known, he bought a tract of land and commenced the erection of suitable buildings. To-day the school owns twenty-three hundred acres of land, of which eight hundred are under cultivation. All the improved methods of farming are taught here, and an experiment station in connection with the farm has been of great benefit. There are now forty-five buildings on the land, of which the larger ones are of brick. A chapel, seating twenty-two hundred people, has just been completed and dedicated, and no prettier or more convenient church can be found in the South.

"These buildings were all designed and constructed by the colored students under the direction and instruction of colored teachers. All the material that enters into their construction except glass and a little hardware, was manufactured in the shops and factories belonging to the school; for twenty-six trades and occupations are represented here, and industrial training, combined with mental work is the keynote of the institution. There are now more than one thousand pupils at work here, three fifths of whom are males; and all are required to learn some trade or occupation in addition to their mental training. Those who have no money to pay for board and tuition give their work at some of the many industries practiced on the grounds, and with the aid of night schools the improvement of their minds is not neglected.

"There are eighty-eight teachers here, many of whom are graduates of Northern universities. Mr. Washington, the Principal, although very quiet and unassuming, is to-day the foremost man of his race. As an orator he has few equals, and high honors have been heaped upon him by northern colleges. Not long ago Harvard University honored him with the degree of L. L. D. Three years ago, selected to deliver the address at the opening of the Atlanta Exposition, he was introduced by President Cleveland, and during the visit of President McKinley to the Tuskegee college last winter Mr. Washington rode in the same carriage with the President of the United States and the Governor of Alabama.

"In one of his speeches Mr. Washington spoke thus:

"'I am no politician; on the other hand I have always advised my race to give attention to acquiring property, intelligence and character, as the necessary basis of good citizenship, rather than to mere political agitation.' And again, 'the more I study the question the more I am convinced that it is not so much a question as to what the white man will do with the negro as what the negro will do with the white man's civilization.'"

GEORGE H. JORDAN, Citronelle, Ala.

Another cousin has sent me a letter on the part which Mrs. Washington plays in her husband's work, and the two letters so fit together, that I make no apologies for giving you so much reading on a single subject in the same month.

"To be the wife of the best known man of a race of ten million persons is no small responsibility, and yet that is probably the position which Mrs. Booker Washington holds to-day with regard to the negroes in this country. In all of Mr. Washington's work throughout the country, both in public speaking and at Tuskegee Institute, the great school for a thousand colored men and women in the middle of the 'Black Belt' of Alabama, Mrs. Washington, who is a native of Mississippi and educated at Fiske University, is her husband's most efficient helper. In addition to her other duties Mrs. Washington has done a great deal of the best kind of missionary work among the poor and untaught negro farmers' wives on the plantations. Such missionary work as this generally begins with a new broom and a lesson in sweeping, or in some such practical way. Schools and church services follow later. I have been to one plantation where there was no school for the children nearer than eight miles until Mrs. Washington began work there. The planter gave her an abandoned cabin for a schoolhouse, and Mrs. Washington paid one of the Tuskegee students to go there and teach. The teacher had to live in the schoolhouse, and the people soon became so grateful for what she was doing for their children that they began to send her things to eat. Of money they had too little to pay. One scholar would bring three 'sweet taters,' another some eggs, or ears of green corn, half a chicken or a piece of 'possum meat.' In time there was so much of this that a wooden box was placed behind the schoolhouse door to receive the gifts, and this box the scholars have named 'Mrs. Washington,' in grateful honor to the founder of the school.



MRS. BOOKER WASHINGTON.

MORTON FIELDING, Tuskegee, Ala.

Another Kansas cousin has sent us a description of an old battle between Sioux and Comanches. He says:

"Thirteen miles up the Neosho river from the town of Burlington, on the south side of the river, is a large hill rising directly from the river's bank. This is known as Indian Hill.

"Some years ago the Comanche and Sioux Indians were here engaged in a fierce battle. It was in July, and the river had been for some time far above high water mark, and the Sioux, not being able to ford it, were at last obliged to fortify themselves upon Indian Hill. They threw up the earth in a ring several feet high, and within this ring they took shelter. The Comanches attacked them, but were driven off, leaving a number of their warriors dead upon the ground.

"The Comanches, finding they could not force the Sioux from their fortifications without considerable loss of life among themselves, determined to starve them out; so for several days and nights they kept close guard over their enemy, depending on their squaws to keep them in food. At last the Sioux, finding they must either fight or starve, determined to come out of their entrenchments and make a bold stand. A desperate conflict took place, and the Sioux were repulsed and fled in all directions. Some rode their ponies into the river, hoping to escape in that way; a few did so, but more were caught in the swift current and whirled down the river to their death. This was the Battle of Indian Hill.

"To this day the old ring-shaped ridge thrown up by the Sioux is plainly visible on the side of the hill, arrow heads are frequently picked up in the vicinity, and skulls are occasionally plowed up by the farmers."

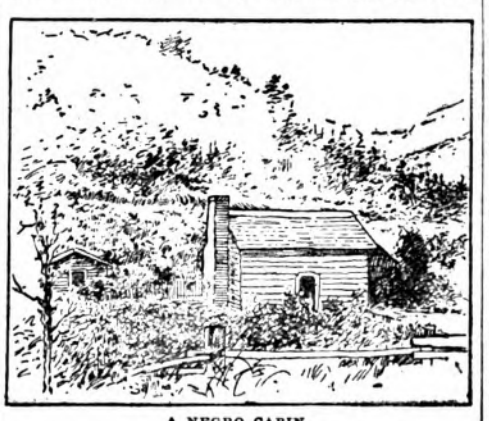
GEORGE JOHNSON, Burlington, Kansas.

Here is a charming letter from a Georgia cousin giving us delightful glimpses of her home there.

"The most beautiful drive about the town of Rome, Georgia, is the Bluff Road. After crossing the Etowah river near where its muddy water meets the clear Oostanaula, and the two, though unmixed for a long distance, run together, forming the Coosa, the road passes, as on the outskirts of all southern towns, through a negro settlement. Half-clad pickaninnies, dogs and pigs scramble out of the road as we pass. Flowers are in the yards, clothes are constantly drying on the fences, and in the watermelon season, families are sure to be gathered on the doorsteps or perched on fences or wagons, feasting rapturously. Beyond are the fields, and in the distance, the mountains, spurs of the Blue Ridge, deep, blue, and infinitely suggestive.

"Later one reaches the pine woods with here and there a small farm. A bend in the road and it begins to ascend. Another bend, and Black's Bluff is reached. Unconsciously one slows the horse and draws a deep breath of satisfaction.

"Above are great boulders piled upon each other in a way of nature's own—trees surmount the whole and seem to reach the sky—streams trickle down



A NEGRO CABIN.

and whisper of what may be seen in the wonderful heights. The winds and the wild creatures have had their own way about the plants to grow here, and that way has been a success. Everywhere, bending over the road, clambering up the heights, plants abound, vines cling to the trees and ferns fill chinks in the boulders. On the other side of the road, down a steep cliff, flows the rich colored Coosa.

"There is a legend connected with this Bluff. Winona, Windflower, the only daughter of an Indian chief living at its foot, was loved of many, but two suitors, Gray Eagle and Black Panther, were the most urgent. Gray Eagle hoped that she loved him and Black Panther knew it.

"One day in early spring Winona set out to clamber over the Bluff in search of wild flowers. Gray Eagle joined her and there, among the great things of earth, she confessed her love for him. Black Panther, hidden behind a tree, heard her, and with deadly rage in his heart, he swore that though he could not have her, Gray Eagle should not. He drew his bow, but Winona saw her lover's danger and sprang in front of him. She fell. Black Panther looked, then flung himself from the heights upon the road below, where the crows found him. Gray Eagle gathered his loved one's body in his arms and carried it to a cave in the rocks. On a bed of flowers he laid it and covered the opening with stones and moss. He left the country to fight among foreign tribes and when wounded unto death he told this story. He did not tell where his Windflower was buried and to this day only the silent sky, the whispering trees, the grey rocks and the deep-flowing Coosa know."

FLORENCE STEVENS, Rome, Ga.

The very breath of summer comes to us in this letter from the "Lone Star" State.

"If Aunt Minerva will permit, I will tell her readers about a trip to the Artesian Well, the Mecca of most of our pilgrimages. After a drive of eighteen miles, under the burning sun, over the heated sand, we came to the cool, green wood in which the well is located. As we drove into the welcome shade we heard the pleasant sound of falling water. Several hundred feet below the surface this water starts up through an iron pipe six or seven inches in diameter. The pipe rises about four feet above the ground and the water leaps out, and falls around it, looking exactly like a large glass case. If one drops a silver coin into the well, it will be thrown back, but the more precious gold the water keeps for itself. A wedding ring, dropped from a fair finger, is lying hidden in its dark depths.

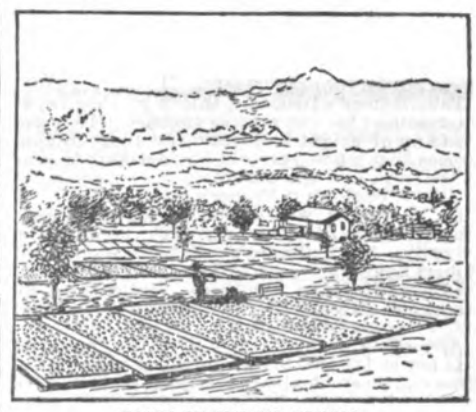
"From the basin around the pipe a 'bright clear flow of crystal wandering water' slips away to the lake. In the shadow of the giant trees lies the beautiful lake fringed with rushes, flags and cat tails, and almost covered with the broad pads and creamy blossoms of the water lilies.

"Soon after our arrival camp fires began to twinkle, and the aroma of supper rose upon the air. Never was a meal more thoroughly enjoyed than that one, though we sat on the sand, ate from tin plates, and drank black coffee from tin cups.

"We Texans are a sociable people and in a short time our party had become acquainted with a crowd of young folks from a neighboring town. We gathered at the well, and passed the time away with music and dancing. Under the flaring torches we danced on the level ground, while a mellow voice sang to the ringing banjo and the musical splash of water. In the black woods the owls chanted a wierd chorus, the frogs in the lake gave them answer, and occasionally the dismal howl of a wolf came from the dim distance. When many a dance over a polished floor, under glittering lights, to the sound of exquisite music, has been forgotten, that one will live in my memory."

SHELL F. ACREE, Whitesboro, Texas.

"In Napa Valley the prune trees blossom in March, and for a few days thereafter there is great anxiety lest an untimely frost should destroy the crop. The blossoms are often so thickly set as to hide the tree, and the fruit, as it matures, so weighs down the branches that they must be tied or bolted at the crotch to prevent them from breaking.



TRAYS OF PRUNES DRYING.

Other dangers which threaten the growing crop are the strong north wind which sometimes wrecks the orchard, and a drought which will cause the fruit to wither and drop. The picking of French prunes begins late in August or early in September. Large sheets are spread under the tree and the riper fruit shaken down on them. The average yield per tree is one hundred and twenty-five pounds.

"The curing process at the 'drier' commences with pouring the prunes into a large wire 'dipper' holding a hundred and fifty pounds, which is worked by levers and submerged in boiling lye water. This thins and perforates the skins and so hastens the drying process. The lye dipper empties into the rinsing dipper and that into the hopper which shakes the fruit down into the trays on the spreader which has a rapid sidewise motion to roll the fruit in place. The trays are then carried to the drying field and laid down in rows to dry in the hot sun. The common tray is three by four feet in size, made of eight redwood shakes, four redwood side pieces and one fir lath at each end. Ten men sometimes run through fifty tons of firm or large fruit in ten hours. After lying in the sun five or ten days the fruit is sorted by hand as to quality and dryness. The good fruit is then taken to the grading machine where it is cleaned of all dirt and the different sizes separated and put in large bins or heaps. The number of prunes to the pound constitutes the grades which run from 150—160's (the smallest salable) to 30—40's (pronounced thirty fortys). There were practically no 30—40's nor 40—50's of California prunes in 1898, the most common grades being 80—90's to 100—110's.

"After 'sweating' the fruit is taken from the bin to be sacked or boxed according to the order of the wholesaler. If sacked it may be steamed or unsteamed as per order and of any size or quality. Steaming adds a few pounds weight to each sack; it softens, cleans and brightens the fruit, also destroys all insect life or possible mould. Only large sizes are boxed, and are generally steamed. The best of the boxed fruit is 'faced' on the top and the boxes nicely lined with fine paper. To 'face' is to select the largest of the grade being boxed and flatten the fruit and lay in rows. Girls do this work, also all kinds of sorting. Boxes are of various weights from ten to fifty pounds. Sacks are all one size, averaging one hundred pounds. The prunes are now ready for the market."

EFFIE C. BRYANT, Calistoga, Cal.

A western cousin sends us the following interesting bit of American history and story. He says:

"The country which was at one time designated as the 'Great American Desert' had been opened up for settlement under the Homestead Law, and as the Americans are always on the move it was not long in filling up with settlers. This was a beautiful country. The scenery was grand beyond description, with the most gorgeous sunsets, and mirages which, though false and deceptive, were magnificent. The climate was fairly good, the air pure, and the water, though so deep in the earth that it must be brought to the surface by wind pumps, was clear as crystal and cold as that which flows from the snow capped mountains.

"The first season after this region was settled the prairies were covered with droves of wild horses and herds of antelopes. Many of these horses were lassoed, tamed, and used by the settlers, while the antelopes furnished delicious steaks for their tables.

"On account of the scarcity of timber the people made themselves dugouts for dwellings. These were made by digging down several feet into the ground and laying up sods, leaving places for doors and windows. The roofs were of lumber, on which were thrown dirt mixed with gypsum to weigh them down, and prevent them from being blown off by the winds. This dirt became in time so hard-packed as to be perfectly rain-proof. The settlers then plastered these dugouts inside with gypsum mixed with sand, and their home was completed. The shelter for their stock was made in much the same way, and a strong wire was stretched from the dwelling to the stables for their guidance in case of blizzards which were very severe and came up without warning. While the blizzard lasted it was unsafe to venture far from the house, as in the darkness and blinding sleet one might easily perish within a few feet of his home.

"The summers were long and hot, and no shade could be devised. Trees were planted, but failed to grow. Crops also failed. People plowed and planted, and the crops would come up and flourish through May and June, but were invariably blasted before the end of the summer by the hot winds of July and August.

"Little by little the settlers drifted away in search of more congenial climes, and at last only a few were left, hoping against hope that they might conquer in the end and win for themselves a home in this spot of their adoption. But even they were finally forced to acknowledge that they must find new homes. The last winter of their stay was a hard one, but the young people in the one little hamlet, called Lawton, resolved that they would celebrate their last Christmas together, and make use once more of the little hall which they had built for festive and religious gatherings. They had no money to spare for gifts, and no stores in which to find them had they had the money; so they consulted their copies of COMFORT, and from the 'Busy Bee' corner they evolved many a pretty and useful gift. Space forbids that I should describe the slippers, pincushions, tidies, neckties, and many another dainty creation that they made by the aid of their much-loved paper. And their refreshments, too, they concocted from the hints that they gleaned from 'Kitchen Chats', from the same valuable COMFORT. And now that they are separated, and settled in distant homes, letters still keep up the old friendship, and they frequently recall to each other's memory the delights of that never-to-be-forgotten Christmas."

O. L. HICKOK, Argonia, Kansas.

And now my space is full, so we must cut short our letter reading for another month.

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SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

Queen Victoria's Daily Life.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



QUEEN Victoria, on the twenty-fourth of May, 1899, if she lives until then, will be eighty years old. It is interesting to know something of how the daily life of this royal woman, who will go into history as the most remarkable sovereign of this century, has been spent.

As a child the possible future of the Princess Victoria was always kept before her by her worthy mother, the Duchess of Kent, and her education was framed with a view to preparing her for the high and responsible duties which she might be called upon to perform. Her early training was very strict, and when her old governess died, no longer ago than 1870 the Queen wrote that while she had adored her, she "was greatly in awe of her."

The Duchess, who was a born diplomat as well as one of the wisest of mothers, used to take the little princess about England a good deal, saying that she thought it well the child should see much of the country, and thinking, to herself, it may be surmised, that it was well the country should see much of her.

Our initial shows her as she appeared when she ascended the throne.

Of all the beautiful and interesting furnishings and ornaments of Burghley House, the magnificent Elizabethan palace home of the Marquis of Exeter, at Stamford, I think the thing which pleased me most was a little white bed, laid with the finest of linen and hung with the choicest of lace, linen and lace yellow now with age, in which the custodian of the rooms tells visitors with pride "'Er Majesty slept the first time she came to visit 'ere, when she was but a slip of a girl."

I imagine the "slip of a girl" must have enjoyed these outings. It seems as if it must have been dull to be so much alone as such an exalted personage must be. Sir Henry Ponsonby has told of the Queen's childhood as follows: "Miss Victoria Conroy came to see her once a week, and occasionally others played with her, but with these exceptions she was left alone with the companionship of her dolls."

Now that sixty and more years have passed it is interesting, too, to read what an eye witness wrote of the daily life of the Queen at Windsor Castle in the short time which elapsed between her coronation and her marriage.

"The Queen gets up soon after eight o'clock, breakfasts in her own room, and is employed the whole morning in transacting business. She reads all the dispatches and has every matter of interest and importance in every department laid before her.

"At two she rides with a large suite, and she likes to have it numerous. She rides for two hours along the road, and the greater part of the time at a full gallop. After riding she amuses herself the rest of the afternoon with music, singing, playing, romping with the children, if there are any at the Castle, (and she is so fond of them that she generally contrives to have some there), or in any other way she fancies.

"The hour for dinner is nominally half-past seven o'clock, soon after which time the guests assemble, but she seldom appears till near eight. The lord-in-waiting comes into the drawing-room and instructs each gentleman which lady he is to take in to dinner.

"When the guests are all assembled the Queen comes in, preceded by the gentlemen of the household, and followed by the Duchess of Kent and all her ladies. She speaks to each lady, bows to the men, and goes immediately into the dining-room. She generally takes the arm of the man of the highest rank. She remains at table the usual time, but does not suffer the men to sit long after, and they are summoned to coffee in about a quarter of an hour. In the drawing-room she never sits down until the men make their appearance. Coffee is served to them in the adjoining room, and then they go into the drawing-room, when she goes around and says a few words to each, of the most trivial nature—all, however, very civil and cordial in manner and expression.

"When this little ceremony is over the Duchess of Kent's whist table is arranged, and then the round table is marshalled. Melbourne invariably sitting on the left hand of the Queen, and remaining there without moving until the evening is at an end. At about half-past eleven she goes to bed, or when the Duchess has played her usual number of rubbers, and the band have performed all the pieces in their list for the night. This is the whole history of her day. She orders and regulates every detail herself; she knows where everybody is lodged in the Castle; settles about the riding and driving, and enters into every particular with minute attention."

Sixty years later another one of the royal household, describing a day in the Queen's life says: "The Queen usually begins her day with a cup of cocoa. Tea and coffee are likewise brought to her bedside by a maid, but her choice seldom varies. A thin German rusk is eaten with the drink. At about 11.30 A. M. Her Majesty partakes of soup, or an egg beaten up in wine.

"The morning is occupied with official matters; papers are brought for signature, and state affairs are generally discussed. *The Times* is read to the Queen by one of her ladies. In summer time all the business is transacted out of doors.

"Luncheon at two o'clock is always the meal of the day with the Queen. The dishes are many and elaborate. During the afternoon she drives or is occupied in divers ways until tea time, another elaborate meal, as teas go, and then again until dinner, at a quarter to nine o'clock. This meal, like luncheon is exquisitely prepared. The Queen drinks during the meal claret and water or dry champagne."

That all these elaborate menus pall on the appetite though, one may infer from a passage in the Queen's published Journal where, writing of a visit to the Dowager Duchess of Athole, at Dunkeld, not so very many years ago, she says: "Excellent breakfasts; such splendid cream and butter. The Duchess has a very good cook, a Scotchwoman, and I thought how dear Albert would have liked it all. He always said things tasted better in smaller houses."

A large part of the Queen's home life has been spent out of doors. At all of her residences she has had some lawn or garden nook where she could work in the mornings. At Windsor she had a tent pitched on the lawn of Frogmore House. At Osborne she sits in a summer house. At Balmoral she has appropriated a small cottage, built principally of lath and plaster, and used originally as a gardener's cottage. Screened from the Castle by dense shrubbery, it is quite secluded, and affords a pleasant outlook on smooth lawns and quiet woods. There are only three rooms in the cottage. In one of these the Queen frequently breakfasts. In the largest room, furnished like the rest, quite plainly, Her Majesty works, writing at a large round table. One end of this room can be easily thrown entirely open to give Her Majesty the open air feeling she delights in.

How diligent the Queen has been in the discharge of her official duties Lord Beaconsfield bore witness when he wrote: "There is not a dispatch received from abroad, or sent from this country abroad which is not submitted to the Queen. The whole of the international administration of this country depends greatly upon the sign manual of the Sovereign, and it may be said that her signature has never been placed to any document of which she did not know the purpose and of which she did not approve."

READING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN a recent occasion a friend said he never read poetry. That Scott's "Lady of The Lake" was the only poem he could ever understand. Now the reason he felt so is because he never really tried to read another poem. He had a feeling that is common to most us. Some have a kind of dread on beginning to read any new subject.

I remember I used to have a sort of dread on commencing a new play of Shakespeare, but after reading a scene or two I became interested and could not close the book until the end was reached. Is it not because we feel that we are on the outside, and that if we could only once get into the spirit of the poem all would be easy? Some of us view with consternation the idea of reading from end to end such poems as Homer's Iliad, Dante's Divine Comedy or Shakespeare's Dramas. Now to remove that first dread of undertaking one of the so-called heavy books, is the difficulty. Let us see if we cannot approach them from another standpoint. We usually think we must begin at the beginning and read right through to the end. In point of fact, any one of the great poets can be read any where.

Take Homer's Iliad and Odyssey; they are as interesting in one part as another. They are made up of bright incidents and short stories, stories that a five-year-old boy delights to hear at bedtime, and will tease for.

No one could find Homer's stories dull.

Andrew Lang, who is one of the best translators we have of Homer, once said he liked the Odyssey, Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer" and Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" better than any other romances. Notice that he places the Odyssey first, Tom Sawyer second and Treasure Island third.

Absorbing as the story of Treasure Island is, it is not so fascinating as the old Greek tales. Take the story of Ulysses slaying the Suitors in the palace. The latest murder in the papers cannot begin to hold the interest as that will.

In fact it seems as if the old writers exhausted the world of its good stories. James Russell Lowell, the poet, said something like this; that somehow all the good stories got told in the dawn of human existence. All Shakespeare's plays have been traced to older stories, all except one. The critics have not yet been able to find any story that suggests the plot of the Tempest.

In the case of Homer, however, no one has yet been able to unearth any older version of his stories. They are furthermore told in the plainest and most natural way; there is nothing obscure, there are no hidden meanings.

Milton is not like Homer. Paradise Lost is not the easy, natural, graceful epic, that the Iliad and Odyssey are. Milton is too much of a student for a boy or girl.

Old Homer is touching and stirring, because he forms character and is edifying. He is the best for all ages, young and old, and for all moods. He writes of battles, and he delights in the joy of battle, and in all the movements of war, yet he delights not less, but more in peace; in prosperous cities, hearth's secure, in the tender beauty of children, in the love of wedded wives, in the frank nobility of maidens, in the beauty of earth and sky and sea, and seaward murmuring rivers; in sun and snow, frost and mist and rain; in the whispered talk of boy and girl, beneath oak and pine tree.

The stories of Sophocles' plays are simple and easy to follow. The Shirt of Nessus is one of his plays, the title is "The Maiden of Trachis," but is almost always alluded to as the Shirt of Nessus. It is a story perfectly absorbing, has always been and always will be a story to strengthen every one's character. I was much surprised to learn how puritanical (we would say) the early Greek poets were.

Another Greek that all who know is to love, is Plutarch. A millionaire recently said his favorite book was Plutarch's Lives; that he read and re-read it. Isn't that curious? Who would think a busy man, who had made his million, would care to read an ancient like Plutarch? He said it was a lesson to learn how many good and great men have been destroyed by envy; that he always learned something new every time he opened the book.

Let me tell you an incident from Plutarch. Phidias, the world's greatest sculptor, had charge of building the Parthenon. Inside was the wonderful and justly celebrated statue of Minerva. It was actually covered with massive plates of solid gold. Enormous amounts were used. Pericles, the ruler of the city, charged him to weigh and keep account of all the gold he used; that it might be valuable to him. He completed the work. His brother artists were so jealous of the admiration it caused and its tremendous success, that they brought charges against him of stealing gold in the decoration of the statue. He was tried. He produced his accounts. They had to acquit him. Then they turned around and accused him of blasphemy, because among the figures he wrought on Minerva's shield he made his own portrait. They succeeded in convicting him; he was punished by death. Envy got in its deadly work. As luck would have it a part of that shield was discovered in modern times, and on that fragment is Phidias' portrait; fate has given us his picture and has denied every other Greek artist the privilege of sending his portrait down to posterity. Such incidents make up Plutarch's Lives.

With a very little effort on your part, you would soon fairly revel in these good old books. What stories there are here for everybody! What a sea on which to sail! What golden freights to carry! No Spanish galleon was ever treasure laden as you may be if you but put forth your hand.

To read with an ever advancing progress you must have an aim. The highest aim is the literature of Greece. When you can appreciate and love the Greek poets you have reached the ultimate goal of earthly literature. This is said, not to have you think for a moment that it is for the benefit of bookworms, but it is for the every-day person like you and me, who read what happens to come before us.

Homer, Shakespeare and Dante are the supreme poets. They are the summit of human endeavor. And how then can we consider ourselves a part of humanity's fabric, if we have not made at least one of those men's masterpieces a part of ourselves! Each one of those men cost an entire civilization. Can we afford to leave this world and not know what at least one of them has to say to us? He created his work for you and me, for each and every child of earth. To ask this question is to answer it. For there are few who do not thirst for knowledge.

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OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, **65c;** short stem, **90c;** 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, **$1.25;** 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, **$1.50;** 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, **$2.25;** 3½-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, **$3.25.** WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,

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assorted colors in 9 square inch blocks, for Fancy Work, Quilts, Sofa Cushions, etc. Each stamped with a neat and graceful design to be worked in silk. **10 cents per package,** postpaid. 6 complete stories, and a piece of popular sheet music **free** with every package.

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Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination, you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay express agent our special introductory price $3.98, and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want Gent's or Lady's size and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only.

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SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a **confection** they are peerless, **as a food unequaled.** German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain **three times the nutriment of wheat;** and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of **Pepsin Salt** to be a sure **cure for Dyspepsia** and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with **Bright's Disease** or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be **eaten in any quantity as a confection** without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia.

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FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to responsible parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages and **get a watch,** a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send **one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents** for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. *No attention paid to first orders without trial 6c subscription.* Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. **FREE**

Address, COMFORT FOOD DEP'T C, Augusta, Maine.

FARMING THE RABBIT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



RABBIT farming may yet become an important industry in this country. In Europe it is conducted on quite an extensive scale, as may be judged from the fact that no fewer than 80,000,000 of these long-eared animals are grown annually for food purposes in France alone. They afford, indeed, the cheapest kind of meat eaten by the French people. Immense numbers of them are consumed in the cities, and rabbits are kept in much the same way as poultry are in the United States, every family in the rural districts owning a few. Small farmers raise a few hundreds each year, netting perhaps $50 or so from the sale of them.

The common cotton-tail rabbits, so familiar in this country, would never do for farming purposes, inasmuch as their meat is very inferior to that of the European varieties. It has too high a flavor to obtain popularity in the markets. However, there is no reason why the best of the foreign kinds should not be introduced into the United States, and their rate of breeding is so enormous that millions might be got from a few pairs in the course of a dozen years. In France the Russian rabbit is most highly prized for its flesh, which by epicures is pronounced delicious. This variety is white, spotted with black, and with nose and ears of a peculiar russet color.

The so-called Russian rabbit is of small size, weighing about 4 pounds when dressed. There are, however, several varieties of rabbits in Russia, where, as well as in Austria, hare skins are commonly tanned and used as furs by the poorer classes. In the same way, some of the Indians in this country used to employ rabbit pelts very largely as furs. This was particularly true of the Piutes and other tribes of the Great Basin, who, having little larger game available, sewed the skins of jack-rabbits together for garments and bedding. The jack-rabbit, by the way, is itself a species of hare.

The profit obtained by rabbit farming in Europe is due chiefly to the fact that the animals can be fed on the waste of farm and garden. If it were necessary to buy all their food, it would cost $6 or $7 a month to feed 100 bunnies. In France or Germany, a farmer who begins with 100 of the long-eared stock expects to have, after the first six months, 300 to 350 rabbits to sell every three months. If he did not sell any for one year, he would have at least 1500 at the end of that time. This gives a notion of the extraordinary rate at which these little animals increase. They are most commonly kept in boxes, an allowance of two square feet for each rabbit being made, and the understanding is that the more they eat the bigger will be the profit.

In Germany several millions of wild hares are killed annually, and not only are they eaten in vast quantities by all classes, but their carcasses are exported to Paris, London and Switzerland. Hares are as definite a part of the annual product of the land as beef or potatoes, and the wholesale destruction of them cannot be said to be attended by any cruelty, inasmuch as, if not killed off closely each autumn, they would become too numerous and a dangerous nuisance. In Leipsic and many other cities and towns of Germany there are regularly organized rabbit-breeding clubs, and these associations hold exhibitions every year, to which rabbits are sent from all over the empire.

Reliance may be placed in the accuracy of the data here set forth, inasmuch as they have been gathered recently by consular agents of this government in Europe. From their statements it appears that Belgium is another country where vast numbers of rabbits are raised for food. Indeed, five distinct varieties are bred for market in Belgium, and are known respectively as the "ordinary Flemish," the "Flemish Giant," the "Russian," the "silvered" and the "Angora." The first of these is the Belgian wild rabbit domesticated; it weighs 6 to 8 pounds alive, and is greyish with spots of black or white. The Flemish giant belongs to the same race, and differs from the variety just described only in size, being the largest of all rabbits raised in Belgium. Though equally good as food, it is comparatively scarce. Its average live weight is 15 to 18 pounds, and when dressed it weighs 10 or 11 pounds. It is chiefly raised for exhibition purposes, and an exceptional specimen weighing 20 pounds will sell for $8. Just think, if you please, of a rabbit weighing 20 pounds!

The Angora rabbit is comparatively small, but has very long hair, which must be carefully combed every week in order to keep it clean. The combings sell at $1.25 to $1.75 a pound, and are especially used in the manufacture of priests' hats. These rabbits sell alive at $2 to $2.25 each; they are the rarest variety in Belgium, and are raised mainly for exhibition. Immense numbers of the ordinary Flemish rabbits are slaughtered about Eastertime, when four or five months old, their weight being 3 to 4 pounds and the price 13 cents a pound. After the skins have been removed, the carcasses are packed in wooden cases for export. The skins, stretched and dried, sell for 3 cents each to dealers, who handle them in large quantities and dispose of them to makers of hats. The Belgian giants are usually raised in dry pens, well lighted and ventilated. In France, on the other hand, the most approved method of rearing the Russian rabbits is to let them run free in large warrens surrounded by wire fences.

Rabbit pelts are utilized for imitating many of the most expensive kinds of furs, including seal, white fox, black fox, lynx, ermine and otter. From 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 of the skins are collected in Russia annually, and these are the finest of all. Their natural white color imitates the white fox, and they are easily dyed so as to counterfeit lynx and black fox. An excellent imitation of the fur of the Arctic fox, worth $50 a skin, is made by waxing the tips of the rabbit hairs, and then dyeing the pelts brown. Thus the tips are left white, and the effect is beautiful.

Million on millions of rabbit skins are imported from Australia to Europe, where the fur is utilized for making hats. They are first dried, and the coarse hairs are extracted by hand for use as bedding or upholstery. The fur is then clipped off by machine, the skins being fed between two rollers to a cylinder fitted with four razor-edged knives placed slantwise. The cylinder revolves at a high rate of speed, separating the fur from the skin and cutting the latter into thin thread-like strips. The fur, after being put through a blower, is ready for market. The blowing apparatus is 200 feet long, and through this the fur is carried by a strong current of air, thus separating the fine material from any coarse hair or other refuse that may be mixed with it. The skin strips are sold for glue stock and as material for the confectioner's product known as "jujube."

Immense quantities of rabbit skins are imported into this country annually, most of them coming from Australia, for use in making hats. There is no reason why all of them should not be grown in the United States—i. e. raised by farmers. When it is considered how extensive is the market for pelts of this kind, not only for hats but for many other purposes, it seems surprising that Americans should not already have taken up the rabbit farming business on a large scale.

DECORATED WHIST BOARDS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



DUPLICATE whist is a standard amusement at our house. When we were first introduced to that form of the game, we were content with the boards offered for sale in the stores. But they were of white stock, which soiled quickly, and they had an abominable border of colored paper, which gave the entire outfit a cheap look.

So, to secure an attractive set of boards, which should be unlike those owned by any one else, photography was drawn upon for assistance.

The first purchase was twelve Collins mounts, 11x14 inches, bottle-green in color—the darkest obtainable—with beveled gold edges, and extra heavy.

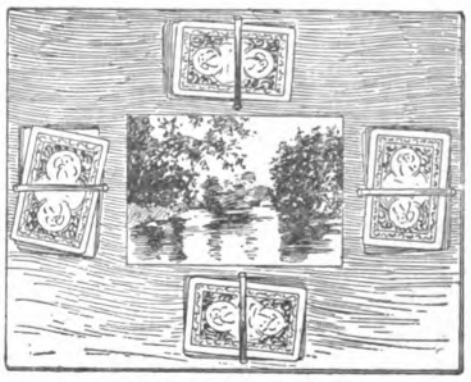
Platinotype prints that never get mounted because the mounts cost so much may be a feature of other amateur collections; in this case there were a hundred or more on hand, all 5x7 inches in size. A careful selection of twelve prints from the lot gave a dozen pictures of general interest, and of considerable variety, landscapes and marines, some vertical and some horizontal. Of course care was taken to select such as would harmonize with the dark background. These prints were trimmed with a generous hand, on general principles, but especially since there would be none too much margin when they were mounted. For the same reason it was necessary to center them carefully, so that the opposite margins might be equal.

A steel punch was used to make four pairs of holes in each board, one pair on each side, in the center, the outside hole being as near the edge as practicable and the distance between the holes of each pair being determined by the width of the playing cards to be used upon the boards.

A handsomely printed calendar furnished a leaf from which were cut large numerals, 1 to 12, and these were pasted on the backs of the boards, in the center.

In a set of twelve boards, each player will have three leads. On the first round, the boards must face North, for instance; on the second round, for playing the "duplicate," they will face East. The boards are to face as the pictures on them face.

If the lead of board number one is with North the lead of board number two will be with East, that of board number three with South; that on board number four with West; and so on for the remaining eight boards. To indicate these leads two small gilt stars, ready gummed, such as are obtained at the stationery stores for counters at progressive card parties, were used. These were fixed at the edge of the picture on the appropriate side of the board.



DUPLICATE WHIST BOARD.

Ordinary black elastic webbing, an eighth of an inch wide, was passed through each pair of holes and was sewn together on the back, making a single durable band to hold the cards in place. This completed the work and the board was ready for the cards.

The set described seems to have many advantages over most of those offered for sale. The dark mount shows no soil from handling and the bands are infinitely better than ordinary rubber bands held together by hooks or other contrivances, which may scratch the table. No attempt is usually made to ornament the stock patterns sold in the stores.

The pictures have been very much admired. Madame H—, who comes in often to play with this particular set of boards, always looks at the pictures throughout the set before beginning to play, so that her attention may not be distracted during the game, she says.

For the photographer who delights in duplicate whist, the making of an original and beautiful set of boards is simple. Such a set, too, makes a handsome and acceptable holiday gift, with the giver's personality plainly expressed in his work. Of course the pictures need not be platinotypes. Even a dozen pretty blue prints, on cards offering a suitable background, would serve to make an attractive set. Nor must the pictures be 5x7 inches in size. Prints 4x5 would look well on the 11x14 mounts or if preferred, they could be mounted on 10x12 cards. Ordinarily cards larger than 11x14 would not be suitable, owing to the limited size of most card tables.

The matter of expense may be regulated by the maker to suit his pocketbook, in the quality of the mounts and the kind of prints used. The set described cost, for mounts, $1.20; for platinotypes (paper only) 60 cents; for elastic webbing, 15 cents. The stars were on hand, but they cost only a few cents. Some obliging neighbor always has a punch to loan, if there is none in the family. The boards cost, then, $1.95, or with twelve packs of playing cards at 20 cents, $4.35 complete. By using cheaper materials they need not have cost half that sum, but in this case, "money was no object." The set was made in an evening.

The illustration shows one of the boards described, and the picture is of a bend in the Quinebaug River, near Southbridge, Massachusetts.

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To take care of it while you may.

To fight dandruff perseveringly and persistently.

To kill the scalp microbe of dandruff, from which all hair trouble arises.

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Begin now.

The old way, upon which all hair treatment was founded, was to stimulate the scalp, by strong, irritating, drawing lotions the constant use of which is dangerous and harmful to the scalp skin.

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It DESTROYS the microbe.

It NOURISHES the hair back to health.

It will cure dandruff, prevent baldness and restore the youthful color to the hair when prematurely gray.

Cranitonic Hair Food will do this because it is a scientific microbicide and food for the hair, and thus goes directly to the root of the trouble.

Cranitonic Hair Food is not a dye. It has no dangerous, sticky, heavy sediment to poison the scalp, clog the pores, mat the hair or stain the clothing.

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Huge large squares such as our grandmothers used in a thousand ways for patchwork. We give away to any one who will send six cents for one package of these great squares. This is to introduce our mammoth illustrated catalogue into new homes where bargains are wanted and to obtain your address to send future favors to. Be sure to get one or more of these packages, we will send to your friend for an additional six cents. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Me.



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of Rich, Blue Serge, warranted best fast color, guaranteed equal in quality, style and looks to others' $10.00 Suits.

THE MATERIAL is Mail's best all wool blue serge, famous everywhere for its perfect weave, soft feel and rich, deep blue color. The cloth was woven by America's Best Woolen Mill from fine picked wool yarn, dyed by a new process and cannot fade. It is medium weight and suitable for year around wear; is firmly woven, will positively not fade or wear shiny, and will wear like leather. It's exactly the same cloth used in the serge suits that retail everywhere for $10.00. Remember we will sell only 1800 suits at $4.95—after they're gone the price will be $9.00. Don't delay, but order to-day before they are all gone.

EXPERT SUIT TAILORS will make the suit in the latest sack style to fit perfect; line it with Holman's celebrated farmer satin, pipe it with Skinner's AAA satin, pad it extra well, use best grade of canvas and sew every seam with pure silk and linen thread.

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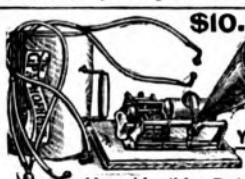
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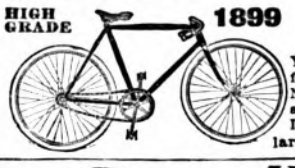
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The fabled race of Amazons seems to bid fair to be established in America. The American woman is growing larger—the American man smaller. The stately type of the Gibson girl is not confined to pen and ink sketches but may be found all over the length and breadth of the land. The shoe people first attracted public attention to this fact by saying that a number three shoe was rarely called for and was an exceptionally small shoe whereas in the last generation "ones" and "twos" were common sizes. "Four" is considered a very small number to-day and women generally wear fives and sixes. The fact that women walk more than they need to and in general take more exercise may explain the fact of their size. As a rule the American man leads far too sedentary a life and it shows in his physical deterioration as regards size. Women on the contrary have improved their mode of living and the result is the "divinely tall" young woman of modern times.

There is no stronger illustration of the passive fatalism of the Chinese than the absolute inertia which is the sole argument which the Oriental offers to the threatened partitions of the Chinese Empire. China as a nation does not exist if patriotism or any love of a form of government make a country. No partitions of geographical territory could effect any change in the native Chinese. They are the one nation that remains wholly indifferent to the transforming influence of a residence in the United States. No matter how marked the nationality of another foreigner is he becomes an American in a few years. Not so with John Chinaman. He neither argues, investigates, nor protests. He simply keeps on in the fashions that have marked his men for unknown hundreds of years. The Chinese Empire might be divided by force and diplomacy into geographic sections but the men of nature would remain just as they are—quiet, impassive with the strange content that makes their point of view of the "foreign devils" seem almost inimical.

One of the most interesting sides of the "Woman" question is a recent examination into her work as an inventor. The Patent office reports of 1895 show that 5000 inventions have been made by women and that among these are many of the most valuable in the list of patents. There is also a close relation between woman's opportunities in the line of higher education and her inventive ability. The first patent issued to a woman was in 1808 for straw weaving. During the next twenty-five years but fifteen patents were issued to women. As her opportunities for education were enlarged her inventive genius developed and the next quarter of a century saw thirty-five patents granted to women. It has been often asked why women did not figure more prominently as inventors. Mechanical inventions are largely in the line of machinery and women have had little opportunity to study and examine such work. One of the earliest patents issued to woman was for a deep sea telescope that has proved of invaluable service in scientific investigations. Invention is a peculiar form of genius and implies the possession of the highest form of imagination—that is the constructive imagination.

The horseless carriage or automobile is steadily winning its way in the cities. There is much to commend it from the business economic and humane point of view. The vast movement of merchandise and property in a city can be done much more quickly by this modern mechanism. The spectacle of horses struggling under heavy loads will be seen no more. Again on this humane side, horses will not be kept waiting for hours in storms or severe weather. The elimination of noise is no small part of the argument in favor of the automobile. The heavy rubber tires move along in a nearly noiseless manner. People need have no fear that the horse will become an extinct animal because he ceases to be a beast of burden. The automobile lifts the horse from a beast of burden to an entire occupancy of the sphere that he only half fills at present—that of a means of pleasure. Nothing can take away from the life of a drive behind a good horse. The automobile will in time become the vehicle of business and convenience—it can never be that of mere pleasure. After one ride the novelty is gone and one realizes that while an automobile is business a good horse is pleasure.

Decoration Day carries a tender and solemn meaning to the heart of the nation and to the hearts of many, many people who have never felt the personal sense of loss until this May day of 1899. With an added tenderness the blossoms will shower upon those who wore the blue and those who wore the gray. Their sons and daughters united in mourning the last solemn harvest of those who died for the honor of their nation, and for the never dying cause of human freedom will turn from the fresh broken sods to those that are green with the grass of thirty summers. Through the mighty convulsions of the struggle in which t' ose men gave their lives rise a real union, a new nature. In the solemn words of Lincoln—we know that those dead "have not died in vain and that government of the people by the people and for the people shall not perish from the face of the earth." The fresh made graves of these later heroes attest to the truth of these words. The dead of the Spanish war have given their lives for this immortal principle of freedom. The united nation stands with bared head and solemn grief beside its thousands of soldiers dead, but this later grief is without regret and carries with it no shade of bitterness.

The Woman Suffrage movement scores its greatest success in the West. The Anti-Suffrage League of New York and Massachusetts fail to find any very telling argument against the question in the records of Wyoming, Colorado and Idaho. The Oklahoma Legislature in its lower house recently passed a bill granting suffrage to women almost unanimously. It would seem that the men of the West were either more chivalrous or more observant of the signs of the times than their brothers in the East. Beyond this doubtless is the fact that the Western women without a dissenting voice ask for the suffrage privilege. It is unusually exercised along educational lines and lines of reform. Kansas recently elected women as County Superintendents of Schools in nineteen counties. Wyoming counts among her intelligent women the present National Superintendent of Indian Schools. Miss Reel, of Colorado, was so pleased with her woman State Superintendent of Schools that she has chosen another woman to succeed her. The women of California have just succeeded in securing full school suffrage. There is now no doubt that the western part of this country is more keenly and intelligently interested in the suffrage movement than any other part of the country.

Mr. Mortimer Delano is not a prophet or the son of a prophet but he is the winner of a newspaper prize for the most accurate predictions as to the happenings of 1898. His remarkable success he declares to be neither clairvoyance, astrology or calculation. He won his $1000 in gold by an article which he says he wrote in half an hour without preliminary study or meditation. More than that—in spite of his wonderful ability in guessing, Mr. Delano is not a Yankee. Here is the list of happenings he outlined for 1898. A year of prosperity for America, election of a Republican governor in New York, annexation of Hawaii, war between Spain and the United States, freedom for Cuba, Spain threatened by Carlist war in Spain, decision of the United States to build the Nicaraugua Canal, completeness and opening of the Siberian railroad, Secretary Sherman's retirement from the cabinet, trouble between France and England in middle Africa, first use of a motor cycle, threatened uprising of the natives in India with Russia as a background. Certainly no more remarkable forecast of events could have been made. The old proverb that it is the unexpected that happens would seem to be in a fair way to be discredited if Mr. Delano's gift becomes at all common. His profession is that of a genealogist, but after this phenomenal success in reading the future he could easily go into business as a broker in "futures." In this age of study of the occult he certainly neglected a business opportunity for financial advancement by disclaiming any powers but the chance of a lucky guesser.

The Hundred Year Club is the latest word in organization. The originators discovered that only one person in a hundred lives to the age of sixty-five years. There are exceptional persons who reach the century mark. The Club believes if right conditions of living are known the life of man may be lengthened. If a man lives "well" in the best sense of the word he can and will live long. Both men and women are members of this club and although it originated in New York City it will establish branch clubs all over the United States. The influence of the physical, mental and moral upon the length of life will be carefully studied. The purely materialistic side which considers the body merely as a perfect piece of mechanism will be examined. The food that furnishes the power for this mechanism will receive careful attention. Gladstone's saying, "all time and money spent on training the body pays a greater interest than any other investment" will be fully exemplified in the work of the club. Exercise, food, rest, all that keeps the mechanism in running order will furnish topics of discussion, and specialists along those lines will enlighten the club. Health foods and scientific cooking will be fully discussed as a means of reaching the hundred year mark. Members must all promise faithfully to endeavor to live a hundred years. It is safe to say that the people who join have answered the dreary question of the times: "Is life worth living?" in the most emphatic affirmation. People who wish to live a hundred years are people who find life good and pleasant. It would go without saying that a sunny optimistic spirit must pervade this new club. It would certainly help people to live long if their associates are convinced that the game of life is worth such a long candle. Success to the new club and in the words of Rip Van Winkle "May it live long and prosper."



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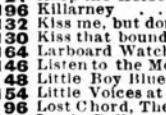
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101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
35	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
33	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella. Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasade
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
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141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewska
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89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Zichrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two step	Robinson
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
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167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Black
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
83	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Rath, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
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73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
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57	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
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7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
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93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
44	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reissmann
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve Sacred	Gounod
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
4	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song	Mosher
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152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
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138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
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66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
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74	In Sweet September	Temple
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
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154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
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40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
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110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
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56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
30	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
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1. Fair - est of all vil - lage maid - ens, . . . Mod - est and charm-ing - ly
2. Ten - der your smile when I meet you, . . . Bright-er the world when you

shy, ... Lips like the rent in a rose - leaf, . . Eyes like the blue of the sky, ... Swift - ly you've sent your darts
speak, . . . There pass - es when - ev - er I greet you, . . Tinge of a blush o'er your cheek. . . . Can these be the signs that I

fly - ing, . . Pierc-ing my heart to the core, . . Oh, leav-ing me hope-less - ly sigh - ing, . . With love for you, sweet Ma - bel Moore. . .
look for, . . The blush and the smile that I saw; . . Oh, can it be true that you love me, . . That you love me, sweet Ma - bel Moore? . .

CHORUS. *a tempo.*

Sweet Ma - bel Moore, ... you . . I a - dore; . . . Your glanc-es so fleet-ing, have set my heart beat-ing With pleas-ure it ne'er felt be -

a tempo.

rall. *a tempo.* *mf* *rall - en - tan - do.*

fore. . . . Tho' I have tried . . . all . . . signs to hide, . . . I'm sure you see clear-ly, how fond-ly, how dear-ly, I love you, my

rall. *a tempo.* *mf* *rall - en - tan - do.*

1 2

sweet Ma - bel Moore. . . . sweet Ma - bel Moore. . . .

a tempo. *a tempo.*

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F. H. GILSON COMPANY, MUSIC TYPOGRAPHERS, BOSTON, U. S. A.

The Ancient Troubadours.

How Music and Poetry were Preserved and Fostered in the Middle Ages.

The announcement of a series of lectures before New York art circles on the Troubadours has caused considerable interest and much discussion; and has called attention to the great debt modern musical culture is under to these people of whom so much is said in all accounts of life in the middle ages.

In our present days of enlightenment we can scarcely conceive the condition of even the most wealthy people in those times. Everything was in a semi-barbarous condition and outside rude athletic sports or dangerous tournaments there was but little amusement. Books there were none save such written lore as might be found in abbeys and other religious institutions. The rich feudal lords kept state in their castles and wore the long evenings out with riotous debauchery and song at the table. Each great man supported a throng of soldiers, servants and retainers, who were amused with the jokes and antics of the court jester or listened enthralled by the singing of the minstrels and troubadours.

The word troubadour comes from the French words meaning to find art. In these early days the troubadours put the deeds of great men into poetry and accompanying themselves on instruments would sing these lyrical songs for the delectation of the people in the strongholds. They were the newsgatherers of their day and repeated the tales of blood and war and love as our newspapers do to-day. It is easy to see by this how welcome such artists must have been as a break in the dull monotony of castle life.

In course of time minstrelsy became an art and many of the poems and songs were written and are preserved. Some of them are even now sung as national airs in modified form. Had it not been for the troubadours the art of music and poetry would have practically died out in the middle ages of modern civilization; but they carried it along in constantly improving lines and laid the foundations of the best in modern musical art. Readers of COMFORT will find much amusement and instruction in reading more of these artists who really did so much for us; but the lack of space in this paper prevents further details.

Before closing these few words on this class of singing poets we wish to call the reader's attention to the fact that all our modern songs are directly traceable to the environments of the times and that many songs suggested by love, war or sentiment are in a modern way products of the same art the troubadours cultivated and preserved. We publish above a beautifully sentimental piece which is winning much favorable comment.

COMFORT has always prided itself on being the "People's paper" and giving its readers the best of everything at nominal cost; but in its production of modern high-class music we feel that we have outstripped all records. It certainly is a source of deep gratification to feel that COMFORT by its modern methods is doing so much for the advancement of art and cultivation among many who would be debarred such privileges were it not for the liberal offers we make. If you have the slightest interest in music either for yourself or a friend look at our wonderful music offer on another page. Remember this is full sheet music and we guarantee return of money in any case where there is dissatisfaction. Nothing can be fairer than that. Make just one trial to-day.



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

OF first-class machines there is but little variation from those of last year; but of second-class machines the number is much less. It has been found in practice that the second-class machines built from parts that are made by various firms, lack stability and strength. Like everything else, in bicycles the best is the cheapest. So it is that we find but little change in the form or character of the wheels from that they had a year ago.

In the good old days before we rode on trains, walking was a capital exercise, but to go awheel in the early summer morning along the quiet roads and through the shady groves is a sensation of delight in which elation is the dominating factor. It has brought health to many a weakened man and made the roses to bloom on many a woman's cheek. It is superb, thrilling and magnificent; none of the adjectives can do it justice.

The wheel has come to stay. It came first as the velocipede, 40 years ago; then it developed into the high-wheeled bicycle, and from thence into the safety. A safety it is and a safety it will remain with gears and sprockets and improvements innumerable; but still a safety.

Col. Albert A. Pope, is the American to whom, perhaps, belongs the development of the wheel. He invented the big-wheeled bicycle and had valuable aid in the favor and service of Mr. Paul Butler and Mr. Willis Farrington.

The "Safety" has revolutionized the modes of travel, supplied a new source of pleasure and added a permanent industry to the business interests of the world. The improvements have been very great and have been suggested by mechanical skill of the finest description. Nothing has been spared to make the machine perfect, and in the bicycles of this year that stage has almost been reached. The superiority of the chainless wheel has been proven after long and exacting tests, and it is to have the favor which excellence and cheapness commands. Last year, a chainless machine cost $125; this year the chainless costs $75.

Bicycles are numerous and there does not seem to be a very great difference in their variety. The patterns are almost identical and whatever bought are bound to give satisfaction. Only one thing to remember, that if you want a good wheel you must pay for it.

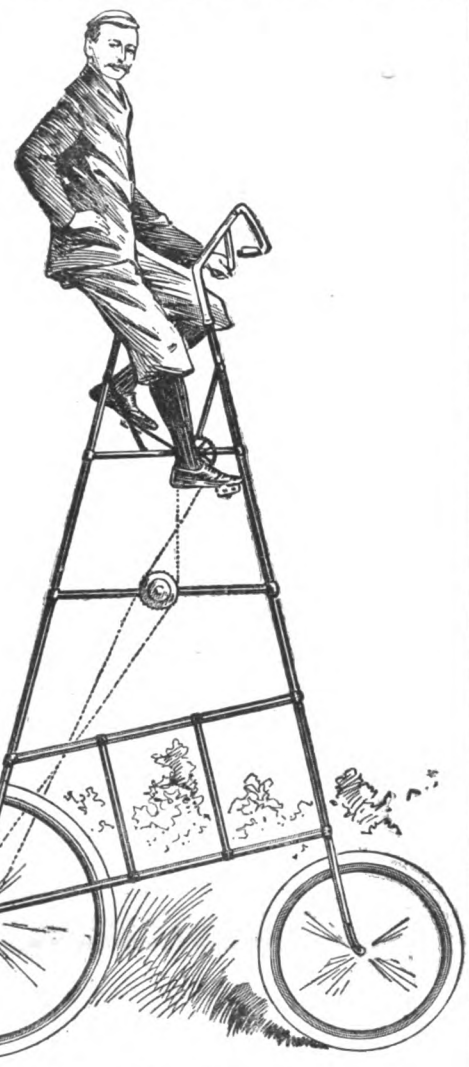
The "jointed crank" is one of the new things in bicycle parts. This is formed by using the ordinary crank and pedal in connection with an intermediate fitting, 1 1-4 inches in length and weighing four ounces, which connects the crank-end and pedal-pin, so that the pedal swings just below its accustomed place, after the fashion of a swinging pedal. The result is that the rider is enabled to use a frame two inches lower than usual, or a saddle adjustment lower to that extent, and to overcome both dead center and chain back lash.

In addition, the leverage is so varied that it reaches its highest power at the forward thrust and its minimum on the upward stroke, where little power is needed. Among the additional advantages claimed are ease in hill-climbing, decreased vibration of the pedal, increased power in back-pedalling and lessened chance of serious accident should the pedal strike an obstruction.

With regard to the new bikes for the summer, the frames show a uniformity in design and height much like those in vogue last year. Short heads predominate, and as a general thing there is possibly a slight decrease in the drop of the crank-hanger. There is a disposition to run to higher gears and longer cranks, and wider and higher handle-bars seem to be in the most conspicuous.

In the bevel-geared chainless wheels a new adjustment is shown which ought to appeal to the average rider. Under the old arrangement when the rider wished or thought that he wanted his gears adjusted he was forced to take his wheel to an expert dealer. With the new arrangement he can adjust the cogs with about the same ease that a man can adjust the chain on the regular wheel. The adjustment is made with a nut on the outside of the shaft, and it can be made without the cups being removed. There is a sort of tongue groove arrangement on the inside of the shoulder.

The new Columbia chainless machines for 1899 show various improvements as a result of a season's observation and study. The frame lines have been brought up to date and the larger tubing, internal expanders, smaller gear covers, narrow rear forks and hubs, general refinement of detail, in combination with the construction necessary to the chainless gear, impart to these new models attractiveness and style. Certain important changes have been made in the running gear. The forward mechanism, which last year was assembled directly into the crank bracket itself, is now placed in an independent bushing or sleeve, which is inserted in the bracket and clamped in position. The gear adjustments, both front and rear, have been made independent of each other, thus greatly simplifying the operation of bringing the gears to mesh. The ball race of each gear bearing forms a part of the gear itself bringing the bearing directly into the line of thrust, and doing away with all danger of springing the gears in hard pedalling.

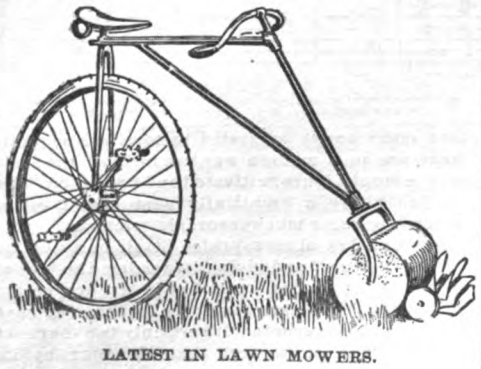


THE EIFFEL TOWER BICYCLE.

The company has devoted especial attention to the production of tandems of the double diamond and combination types, and believes that the present models are the strongest, safest and easiest running tandems ever manufactured. They are offered as embodying everything essential to the comfort, convenience and perfect enjoyment of the many who gain exhilaration and pleasure in riding machines of this class.

One of the New York talking machine companies is sending out on its cylinders a humorous tale of a one-legged farmer, who attached a bicycle to a mowing machine and won a prize at cutting hay. This fiction has now developed into a fact, for in one of the small towns on the Hudson River is a man who has actually made the combination. By dismantling his bicycle and attaching it to the lawn mower he is able to cut grass on level ground with very little difficulty. It is announced that he expects to be able to so improve the machine that it will operate safely upon hillsides.

In Chicago, there is already the "Eiffel Tower bike;" the frame is between 9 and 10 feet high and braced strong enough so that the rider can sit on it safely and see everything on the road. He climbs up the ladder-like frame and wheels off as though he were monarch of all he surveys. The affair will scarcely become popular, however.



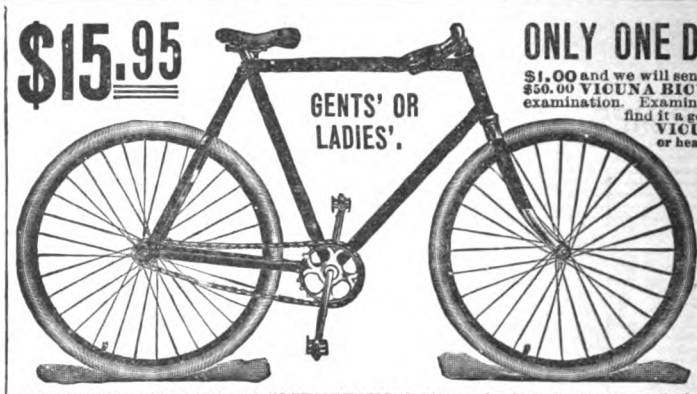
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Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.
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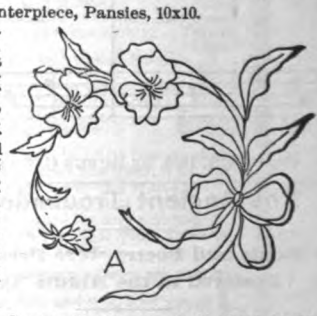
More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



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THE PRESIDENT'S HAT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



PRESIDENT McKinley recently visited New England. A vast crowd of humanity packed closely into Dewey Square, Boston. Drawn up beside the station was a handsome landau with four spirited horses attached. A sudden swaying of the crowd, cheer after cheer upon the air and the President of the United States was escorted to the carriage. The dignified coachman on the box was the one silent and motionless human being in all that vast assemblage. The familiar lifting of the hat, the bared head, the debonnair bow as the carriage made its way through the crowd. The dinner given by the Home Market Association, the largest dinner ever given under cover in this country; the State House hastily visited; the Commercial Club breakfast; a hurried drive to the station; the shouting crowd; a receding figure, hat in hand, on the platform of a car, and the President's visit to Boston was over.

Before the wheel of fortune brought us so many times into close proximity to the Executive of this nation, it had been our impression that a man's hat belonged on his head. This may be the general rule. To it, there is one exception at least. The hat of a President evidently belongs in his hand. The poet in embryo who wrote,

"I would I were the President
Of these United States,
All day I would do nothing
But swing on all the gates,"

should have added, *with my hat on*, if he had wished to convey a perfect expression of blissful freedom from all responsibilities.

The day of the inauguration of William McKinley, President Cleveland and the President-elect rode together to the Capitol, as is the custom. During the ride both gentlemen were called upon, from time to time, to acknowledge the greetings of the people. On their return, however, after the oath of office had been administered, the hat of Mr. Cleveland was placed squarely on his head, with a firm, immovable, put-there-to-stay expression, that seemed to indicate the wearer's satisfaction in relegating one of the penalties of greatness, at least, to the bowing gentleman by whose side he rode.

Mr. McKinley's hat failed to fulfill its mission as a head covering, several months before that fourth of March, 1897. From the time the button touched at St. Louis set the cannon booming and the bells ringing in Canton, Ohio, to announce the nomination of its townsman, to that election night in November on which the inhabitants knew neither sleep nor rest—when the screaming of steam whistles and the tooting of horns, made Fourth of July a thing of beauty by comparison—the hat of Major McKinley seldom found a resting place on the crown of his head.

There was an interest, a unique charm, an excitement about Canton during those months that can be realized only by those whose walks in life led them up and down its broad and brick-paved avenues.

On the day of nomination, as soon as the mouth of the cannon announced the welcome news, the waiting crowd like a mighty torrent surged through the streets of Canton. The townspeople poured into the market-place from east, west and south. Hemmed in by the buildings on either side, together they rushed along to the McKinley homestead. The first speech of the nominee had scarcely ended when a delegation rolled into the station from Alliance, twenty miles away. The members had been seated in a special train waiting for the word that sent them spinning down the track, almost beating Canton itself by their prompt appearance.

From that day the town gave up work as a means of livelihood and plunged headlong into the dissipations of a "home campaign." Badges and decorations appeared as by magic, and every breast that throbbed for Mr. McKinley was freely frescoed with knobs and buttons. Among womankind baking on Saturdays became as one of the lost arts. That day was the favorite one for arrivals, and the town put on an extra air of gaiety. Train after train, decorated with flags and streamers, bearing on top as well as inside the cars their loads of living freight, drew into the station. There were processions of all kinds, and bands of all tones. There were companies of six-footers and companies of first voters. There were groups of women headed by brass bands played by members of their own sex. Often, several delegations marching behind music paraded the streets, keeping out of the way until a more fortunate delegation already at the house of the nominee, was received and despatched. Of what use was the hat of Mr. McKinley in those days?

Canton is in Stark County. In 1892 the State Treasurer of Pennsylvania was elected by the largest Republican vote ever polled there for that office. A coon captured in Stark County was sent as a present to the Treasurer, with the request that it be returned in 1896, on the nomination of Major McKinley for President.

One day a special car came in, bearing a perfect model of the White House. Snugly ensconced within the walls rode its tenant, the Republican coon, formerly of Stark County. The house was made in Apollo, Pennsylvania, of McKinley American tin, and the front door bore in bas relief, the face of William McKinley. Another day, representatives of the plumbers in Pittsburgh came marching up the street, bearing on their shoulders a bath-tub of porcelain and gold, whereupon the Democratic paper quietly remarked that Mr. Bryan *had* a bathtub in *his* home and didn't need one as a present.

Intense excitement prevailed among the children as well. The little six years old daughter of a Democratic neighbor announced to her astonished family that she proposed to marry the little son in our own home. "But first," said she, "I must find out if he is for Bryan." Support of Mr. Bryan being one of the necessary conditions, the marriage was indefinitely postponed.

After the November elections, the delegations disappeared. The grounds about the McKinley homestead were left as barren as a base ball field. Other lawns gave hints of past verdure and of future life, but the heath of McKinley was trodden to dust beneath the heel of the patriotic American. Another wooden fence replaced the one literally torn down and lugged away by relic hunters. Then the wheels of that machinery which was to force the country through four more years of its history, began to be oiled. Men of brain, men of influence, men of power now stepped from the trains as they rolled daily into the little Canton station. A close confidential talk between the visitor and the President-elect would at once take place, often followed by a stroll up the street and a call on Mr. McKinley's mother.

Madam McKinley in her quiet home, welcomed and enjoyed the society of all who cared to see her. Nowhere in Canton was there a more hospitable house for an afternoon chat.

"I hear that William was your favorite son," said a visitor, on one occasion.

"No, he was not," returned the old lady, stoutly, "I had no favorite son. One child was the same as another to me, and William was just like the other boys, no better, no worse."

"Give my love to *your* son," said she, a little later. "Tell him that he will grow up to be a good man, and be a power."

"My son will be much pleased to receive that message from you," the visitor responded.

"Well," said Madam McKinley, with decision, "*I* think the boys should have some notice taken of them. They like to feel that they are appreciated, that there is a place for them in the world, and something to do. I am sorry that you haven't a daughter too," she added, gently, "for there is a place in the mother's heart and life that only a daughter can fill." No momentary forgetfulness of daughter here—a forgetfulness that might be forgiven, in view of motherly pride in a son called to be the head of a nation.

Passing up the street in the gathering dusk, we often saw the President's mother sitting quietly and alone, by the window. Now and again she would lift her eyes from her knitting to peer at the passers by through her gold-bowed spectacles. Farther down the street, great men came and went, and the months rolled on.

"Do not let them spoil you in Washington, Madam McKinley," said we on the afternoon of our farewell call.

"Oh, they can't do that," was the smiling answer. "I am only a plain woman."

"Well, then, good bye, and may you have a pleasant visit."

"I am sure she will have a pleasant visit," put in her daughter Helen, quickly. "Mother usually carries her happiness with her, wherever she goes."

Don't join a "Don't Worry" club. Don't try not to worry. A little worry is a good thing for the human race. How are we ever going to progress, to grow, if we are perfectly satisfied with our present state, and never try to better it? The world was never intended to stand still.

UNCLE SAM'S NEW MARKETS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AMERICANS generally have an acute interest just now in the demands of the markets secured through the absorption of the islands and archipelagoes which have newly become part and parcel of Uncle Sam's domain.

The question is how to furnish what the inhabitants of these island-groups require—to give them what they want, at prices that will be satisfactory to seller and buyer. To begin with, it is necessary to find out what the people of the freshly-acquired realms are anxious to purchase, and this is no easy matter from the Yankee point of view.

Just for example, the case of sandals. From the every-day American standpoint, sandals are footwear belonging to the ancients, but absurd when considered in connection with modern civilization. Call them absurd if you like; but the fact is that sandals are worn generally to-day by the common people in Cuba, in Porto Rico, and in the Philippines. In fact, and this is where the point of the argument comes in—they are very nearly the most important article of importation into the West Indies now.

You take a length of small rope, and, beginning in the middle, you wind it around and around upon itself until it reaches the bigness of a shoe-sole. To this, when it is properly constructed, you add a cloth "upper," and you have a very substantial shoe. This it is that in Cuba, Porto Rico, or the Philippines is called a sandal. For wear in a hot climate it is vastly more suitable than the every-day leather shoe. Thus, it is not surprising to learn that the Cubans have been accustomed hitherto to buy from Spain more than $2,500,000 worth of sandals every year.

When the American manufacturer realizes this opportunity, he will begin to make sandals, and will produce them at a cheaper rate than has hitherto been known. That is what Yankee enterprise means. It is worth while incidentally, to call attention to the fact that hitherto Cuba has been accustomed to import from Spain about $3,200,000 worth of ordinary leather shoes. Of course, the only reason why they were got from Spain was that the government of the Iberian Peninsula chose to put prohibitory duties on shoes from other countries. From now on, the Cubans will be shod by American shoemakers. Within the last few months a great change has taken place in Cuba, from the view-point of the American manufacturer. The latter finds no longer any opposition to the introduction of his products in the island, and he is at liberty to send thither whatever he wants to send, with the certainty that if the stuff is good it is bound to sell. At present Cuba manufactures practically nothing, so that there is a clear field in that quarter.

When the Spaniards were in control, they exercised such a discrimination against the products of the United States, by imposing exorbitant duties on merchandise imported from this country, as to shut out our manufactures to a great extent. This was particularly outrageous in view of the fact the bulk of Cuban products was bought in the United States. It was as if you were to cut your best friend on the street—to make a practice of cutting him, that is to say, although he continued persistently to give you money to help you along. Happily, thanks to the recent war, this situation has been done away with, and now American manufacturers find the Cuban market open to them for the first time.

This is why it is worth while to know exactly what the Cubans want to buy. The figures of their imports from Spain in recent years show that they require more than $20,000,000 worth of wheat flour every year. Of cigarette paper they require about $2,000,000 worth. They call for $2,000,000 worth of beans, and for $600,000 worth of other dried vegetables. Of onions, garlic and potatoes, they demand $1,200,000 worth from outside. Wine to the extent of $8,000,000 worth finds a market on the island. They are ready to purchase $1,500,000 worth of corn, an equal quantity of rice, and $600,000 worth of butter. They are prepared to absorb annually $3,700,000 worth of manufactures of flax and hemp, $1,100,000 of woolen blankets, $3,200,000 worth of soap, $371,000 worth of silk, $337,500 worth of cotton thread, $588,000 worth of oils and paints, $255,000 worth of salt, $334,000 worth of glass bottles, $145,000 worth of mineral waters, $177,000 worth of chemicals and medicines, $172,000 worth of playing cards, and $64,000 worth of perfumery.

Now, it must be realized that these figures relate merely to exports from Spain as recorded in recent years. They are given in such detail simply for the reason that the bulk of the imports of the island have been derived from that country hitherto. But, on inspection of the imports of the United States, it is found that we have furnished to the Cubans a supply of breadstuffs which in 1893 ran up to $3,512,000 worth. Since that time, owing to the civil disturbance, the trade in this line went down to about one-third. Of bacon, in maximum years, we have sent to Cuba 10,000,000 pounds.

Naturally, we shall take from Spain the privilege of supplying Porto Rico with what that island needs. Up to the present time, it has been accustomed to receive from Spain annually $250,000 worth of soaps, $2,500,000 worth of cottons, $1,100,000 worth of shoes, $550,000 worth of rice, $550,000 worth of petroleum, $175,000 worth of felt hats, $19,000 worth of umbrellas, and $750,000 worth of sandals. These are the same kind of sandals that are in use in Cuba, with rope soles and cloth uppers. It is decidedly interesting to notice how certain people stick to certain things in the way of articles to eat and articles to be worn. Every year Porto Rico imports more than $100,000 worth of soup pastes (vermicelli, etc.) and Cuba absorbs $300,000 worth of them annually. Porto Rico has been accustomed to take from the United States from $600,000 to $950,000 worth of breadstuffs every year; of bacon and hams 1,500,000 pounds, of pickled pork 3,400,000 pounds and of lard 4,500,000 pounds.

The great requirement of the Philippines seems to be for cotton fabrics, of which they have been accustomed to import not far from $6,000,000 worth annually. Their next most important import is of paper, which is about $300,000 per annum. Then come preserved foods, representing a value of $200,000, leather $200,000, iron and steel $175,000, sandals $100,000, these are called "alparatas" in the archipelago, and umbrellas to the number of 650,000. Hats, buttons and pastes for soups are also in great demand.

For many years past the Hawaiian Islands have derived three-fourths of their imports from the United States, and about one-eighth of them from Great Britain. They want great quantities of clothing and haberdashery; likewise crockery, drugs, dry goods, blankets and fancy goods. From this country they have been accustomed to receive annually about $75,000 worth of beer, $36,000 worth of horses, $26,000 worth of hogs, $67,000 worth of mules; 125,000 pounds of shrimps, 180,000 pounds of assorted fish, 60,000 pounds of cornmeal, 27,000 pounds of oatmeal, 3,200,000 pounds of barley, 12,000,000 pounds of bran, 25,000 pounds of garlic, 220,000 pounds of hams, 370,000 pounds of lard, 230,000 pounds of laundry soap, 96,000 pounds of wire—not to mention great quantities of fresh fruits, wheat flour, furniture, wall paper, groceries, starch, sugar, agricultural tools, twine, leather, lumber and machinery.

A Maine genius announces that he has discovered the lost art of making the famous old Damascus steel, and that he has also found out how to harden copper and brass. He has been experimenting with metals in the village blacksmith shops for ten years, and has made several broadswords of copper, keen and strong as steel. He has made several knife blades and razors of copper; and has, himself, used a copper razor for months which shows no signs of dullness. A number of capitalists from Boston have made him flattering offers for his secret, which is, he says, the simplest thing in the world, and which every section worker, and every copper and brass worker tread upon every day while working at their trade and fail to see it.

Norway is the most blissful abode on the face of the earth for journalists. The state there provides them with all sorts of specialties. Lately, a fresh privilege has been granted to the press, in the shape of two scholarships, worth $280 each, for journalists who wish to go abroad to study. Each of the one hundred and thirty Norwegian newspapers has also a free ticket over all the State railways. This can only be used for journeys connected with affairs of the newspaper, and the Press Association is bound to see that this condition is observed.

The countries where long finger nails are most effected are Siam, Assam, Cochin China and China. The approved length varies from three or four to twenty-three inches. The aristocrats who allow themselves these luxuries are practically helpless. They can neither dress nor feed themselves nor even write.



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Uncle Sam's Smokeless Powder.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



DURING the recent war with Spain, Uncle Sam suffered greatly from lack of smokeless powder, with which the Spaniards were provided both on land and sea. It is not the intention of this government to be caught again at a similar disadvantage, and the utmost efforts have been made recently to provide this sort of ammunition for American ships and American troops. Large quantities of it have been purchased from private manufacturers by the War Department, and a considerable stock of it has been shipped to the Philippines, where plenty of it will be kept on hand in future. At the same time, at the urgent request of the Navy Department, Congress has furnished money for establishing a plant for making smokeless powder at Indian Head, on the Potomac near Washington.

All the powder now supplied for use on our naval vessels is of the smokeless kind; likewise all of that which is distributed to our soldiers at home and abroad, whether regulars or volunteers. It is not the wish of the government to compete with private firms in the production of this species of war material, and the annual output of the factory at Indian Head will not exceed 300,000 pounds—hardly more than would be needed to stock the magazines of a single battleship once. The purpose of the plant on the Potomac will be to set and maintain a standard of excellence in smokeless powder. Hitherto Uncle Sam has been obliged to purchase whatever in this line happened to be in the market, but in future none of the stuff will be bought that does not satisfy exacting tests.

Smokeless powder originated in France, and for a long time was regarded as a mystery, the processes of its manufacture being kept secret. Now, however, the method of its production has been reduced to a scientific basis, and in this direction during the last few years the Navy Department has carried exact chemical research to the extreme limit of practical refinement. It now has a powder known to experts as "pyro-cellulose," which is equal to, if not better than any smokeless powder used by foreign nations. It has been brought down to the simplest possible chemical combination, so that apparently there is nothing beyond. In short, it may be regarded as the standard of the world.

When ordinary black gunpowder is ignited, a puff of smoke follows its burning. This signifies imperfect combustion, and in war on sea or land it is a serious disadvantage, interfering with accuracy of aim. In the naval fight off Santiago the American ships were seriously embarrassed on this account, clouds of smoke made by their own guns interrupting their view of the enemy. Our troops besieging the Cuban city suffered from the same cause, being unable to locate the Spaniards who were firing at them, while their foemen could see by the puffs of smoke just where to shoot. It was justly felt to be a serious reflection upon our government that in such an important matter as this it should be behind old-fashioned Spain.

You take a bit of smokeless powder, set fire to it, and it is instantly transformed into nothingness, so to speak, being converted wholly into gases and leaving not a trace of ash or residue. Here we have an illustration of absolutely perfect combustion, and with this matter of complete burning the shape of the powder-grains has something to do. Accordingly, smokeless powders are made in various forms, some of which are decidedly curious. For instance, a famous French kind looks for all the world like yellowish brown paper. Anybody might mistake it for ordinary wrapping-paper, but if you take a scrap of it and touch it with a match, it flares up brilliantly and vanishes in an instant.

The smokeless powder now furnished by the Navy Department for use in small arms is somewhat similar to this, being manufactured in the shape of thin brownish papery sheets. It is not served out to the ships in this form, however, but is chopped up into little bits of square pieces and packed thus into cartridges for the rifles and machine guns. For the big guns exactly the same kind of powder is used, but it is turned out in long rods of various diameters suitable to different calibers These rods are perforated from end to end with a number of holes or canals, so as to allow the igniting fire to "set off" the stuff more quickly. Before being delivered for service, the rods are cut into short lengths, so that they appear in the form of cylinders.

The Navy smokeless powder is pure guncotton, treated with a mixture of ether and alcohol. On the other hand, the smokeless powder now used by the Army is 80 per cent. guncotton and 20 per cent. nitroglycerine. As supplied for field and coast-defence guns, this latter kind of powder has the same form as that favored by the Navy—i. e., cylinders "multiperforated," but for small arms it is made in long strings like packthread and chopped up into little bits of cylindrical pieces. Up to date, the War Department has made no attempt to manufacture smokeless powder in a large way, though it has conducted experiments in this line at the Frankford Arsenal, in Philadelphia, where samples of all powders purchased for the Army are tested.

The Germans make their smokeless powders in rolls like maps. The rolls are sliced crosswise into long sticks, which are packed in bundles like toothpicks for machine guns, while for small arms the sticks are chopped into little cubes. One kind of French powder of the smokeless variety is so much like old-fashioned molasses candy that one is tempted to eat it. Again, the English smokeless powder known as "cordite" resembles thick strings of black rubber, which shape it assumes through having been forced through a colander in a semi-liquid state. Cordite is the most famous of all powders of this description, being extensively used in nearly every navy in the world. It is one of the safest explosives known, and is not dangerous unless confined. It can be held in the hand and lighted without danger, burning slowly and with a bright flame.

The basis of all smokeless powders is guncotton dissolved in nitric acid, the latter element being afterward entirely removed. Quite simple is the process by which the common and harmless substance called cotton is converted into such a terrible explosive. Pure raw cotton is steeped in a solution of nitric and sulphuric acids, the former rendering the cotton explosive, while the latter helps the nitric acid to combine with the cellulose of which cotton consists. After soaking for hours, the cotton is squeezed under rollers and washed thoroughly to remove the free acid, which, if any of it remained, would tend to decompose the guncotton. Finally, the latter appears in the shape of a soft white pulp resembling paper pulp in appearance.

This is the stuff which the experts employed by the Navy Department transform into smokeless powder by treating it with ether and alcohol. The powder used by the War Department, as already stated, combines with it 20 per cent. of nitroglycerine. This substance called nitroglycerine is an oily, colorless liquid, produced by mixing a quantity of sulphuric acid with double the amount of nitric acid and allowing it to cool. To this mixture about one-eighth of its weight in glycerine is then added gradually; the acids are drawn off, and the residue (nitroglycerine) is washed and filtered. Nitroglycerine cannot be ignited easily by a flame, and a lighted match or taper plunged into it would be extinguished. It is set off by friction or by being struck, and its explosive force is about twelve times that of gunpowder.

Smokeless powder burns slowly—slowly, that is to say, for gunpowder—and on that account the guns built in future for our Navy will be longer than those now in service. This is necessary in order that the powder shall be wholly transformed into gas before the projectile has time to get out of the muzzle. Smokeless powder weighs much less per charge than the ordinary kind, and this means a considerable saving of weight of ammunition to be carried by each ship. During the conflict with Spain the American vessel that particularly distinguished itself by its markmanship was the cruiser New Orleans, built in England for the government of Brazil and purchased by us just before hostilities were declared, together with her outfit of ammunition. Thanks to her provision of smokeless powder, the New Orleans, though not an armored vessel, was as efficient as any of our battleships.

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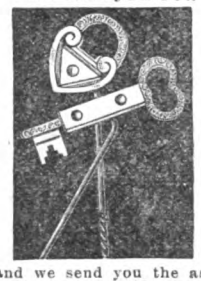


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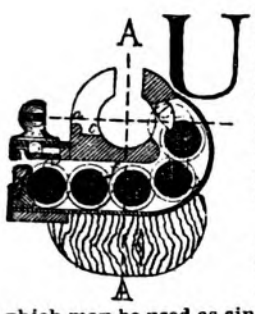
The Opal Ring FREE. You send us your full name and address and we send you the assortment as above to sell for five and ten cents each, you return the money $1.30 cash to us and we send you all charges paid one of these **Solid Gold Shell Opal Rings,** besides the large opal in centre there are two small **Rex Diamonds** on either side as shown in cut. This makes a most attractive setting and these Rings are sold to us under a **Three Years Guarantee.** The manufacturers' own warrant goes with each one, that it is Solid Gold Shell and warranted to wear for Three Years. Buying these Rings in thousand lots as we do we get them at a great bargain and they cannot be detected from a $12.00 Ring. If you desire an Emerald or Ruby instead of Opal we can send you either one. Send for the Jewelry outfit to-day. Address



ART JEWEL CO., Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

The Latest Advances Made in the World's Small Arms.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



UPON a careful comparison of the Mauser gun with the Krag-Jorgensen it is found that there is little difference in point of function performed, and the structure differs but little except in matters of detail.

There are two general classes of magazine guns in use by the armies of the world: First—Those which may be used as single loaders while the magazine is charged. These arms may be properly termed "repeating" guns. Second—Those in which the magazine may be charged and then held in reserve while single fire is delivered, and the magazine fire being available at any moment.

Guns of the first class can be used as single loaders only when the magazine is empty; while those of the second class may be used as single loaders either when the magazine is filled or empty.

With the second class a cut-off is sometimes employed which prevents the loads in the magazine from being utilized when the gun is used as a single loader.

The small arms of Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Roumania are typical of the first class. England, Spain, Denmark and Switzerland use guns of the second class.

It will be obvious that a firearm which may either be used as a single loader or as a magazine gun has many advantages over a weapon which can only be used as a magazine gun or as a single loader when the magazine is empty. To illustrate one of the advantages of the guns of the second class: When soldiers are drawn up in line of battle, a column may fire and fall back, and a single loading gun is therefore just as desirable for the purpose as a magazine. But it is when a rush upon the enemy is ordered that the available five loads are of great service. On the other hand, to resist an onslaught of the enemy the reserve magazine is very useful. Soldiers in battle are inclined to become mere automatons. They load and fire ofttimes more by force of prearrangement than by operation of the mind at the time of firing. This is particularly true of the volunteer service. Moreover, extraordinary mechanical knowledge is not required of the ordinary soldier. Hence, to be a desirable firearm, simplicity of structure must be deemed a feature of much importance. Nearly all rapid fire guns in military use today have the sliding-bolt system of breech closure, and this is justly in great favor, because the movement is simple and the result certain. During the late civil war a dead soldier was found having a musket loaded with twelve charges, one on the other. Evidently he had first used a cartridge with a defective cap, and since the din of battle was sufficient to drown *the noise of* an explosion he thought the charge had been fired, and he then reloaded—repeating the act twelve times, and always striking the defective cap. With the sliding bolt guns such an occurrence would be impossible, as a defective cartridge would be ejected and a good one would be substituted.

A board of officers of the U. S. army, constituted for the purpose of selecting magazine arms for use in the service, made a report based upon experiments and tests of some fifty-two guns of the most approved types from all parts of the world.

Following are the tests made and results attained with the Mauser gun.

Safety test—The gun was operated by the recorder of the board and fired from the shoulder ten shots in 25 seconds.

Regular tests. I. Rapidity with accuracy. (a) As single loader and then as repeating arm for contents of magazine. The gun having no cut-off this test could not be applied exactly as contemplated; it being possible however to fire the upper cartridge in the magazine, then replace it by another, and so on, thus maintaining a single loader fire with 4 cartridges held in reserve, the test was conducted in that manner. The 16 shots were fired in 63 seconds; the 4 from the magazine in 6 seconds—total 69 seconds; 20 hits. (b) As single loader for 2 minutes, 31 shots were fired with 30 hits. (c) A magazine for two minutes. 36 shots were fired and 4 cartridges left in magazine; 35 hits.

II. Rapidity at will. (a) As a single loader and then as a repeating arm for contents of magazine. Sixteen shots in 46 seconds, the four from the magazine in 5 seconds; total 51 seconds. (b) As a single loader for one minute—18 shots were fired. (c) As a magazine arm for one minute. After third shot the locking catch was inadvertently turned, probably by operator's sleeve or arm, and the bolt locked. Resuming the test the cartridge clip of the first charge of the magazine was carried forward with the bolt jamming its action.



KRAG-JORGENSEN.

III. Endurance. (a) As magazine arm for 500 rounds. Seventeen failures to extract, the extractor tearing through head, leaving shell in chamber, and one failure where the head resisted, and shell only extracted by blows of a hammer on the head of the bolt. Two misfires, each exploded on second trial. This test was conducted in series of 50 shots, after each of which gun was cooled by passing a stream of water through the barrel. All failures to extract occurred in the latter portion of the sets of 50 shots, after the piece had become heated.

IV. Dust. (a) Magazine empty when exposed. Well dusted; bolt opened with difficulty. When endeavoring to close the bolt a number of efforts were required before it could be entirely pushed forward; then the bolt could not be rotated, the cuts for the lugs on bolt being clogged with dust that could not be removed by the hand. (b) Magazine loaded when exposed. Well dusted; bolt worked more stiffly, but yet without much difficulty.

V. Defective cartridges. By the first defective shell that portion of the extractor which, when the bolt is locked, lies under the groove for the right-hand locking lug, and is therefore not supported, was so bent upwards that the bolt could not be turned until extractor had been forced by hammer and punch.

The tests made and results attained with the Krag-Jorgensen gun are given below:

Safety Test. The gun was operated by Mr. E. Jorgensen and fired from the shoulder, 10 shots in 32 seconds. Regular tests. (a) As single loader and then as repeating arm for contents of magazine. The capacity of the magazine being 5 cartridges; 15 shots were fired a single loader in 44 seconds, the 5 from the magazine in 10 seconds; total, 54 seconds; 16 hits. (b) As a single loader for 2 minutes. 38 shots were fired and 1 cartridge introduced into chamber; 35 hits. (c) As magazine arm for two minutes. 43 shots were fired and 1 cartridge left in chamber, with 38 hits.

Rapidity at will. (a) As single loader and then as repeating arm for contents of magazine. The 15 shots as single loader in 32 seconds, the 5 from magazine in 7 seconds, total 39 seconds. (a) As single loader for 1 minute. 29 shots were fired, of which one missed fire. (c) As magazine arm for one minute—thirty-five shots were fired, and one cartridge from the eighth packet introduced into the magazine.

Endurance. (a) As magazine arm for 500 rounds. Breech and magazine mechanism worked well and easily. (b) As single loader for 100 rounds. Mechanism worked easily in all particulars.

Dust. (a) Magazine empty when exposed. Thoroughly dusted. Mechanism worked easily. (b) Magazine loaded when exposed, thoroughly dusted. First cartridge from magazine not fed into receiver until point of bullet freed by hand; mechanism then worked well.

Defective cartridges. No injury whatever from the three forms of defectives. Gun worked well.

Excessive charges. Bolt opened easily; mechanism worked well and freely.

Ease of manipulation. Satisfactory.



MAUSER GUN.

As a result of these tests the Board arrived at the conclusion that the Krag-Jorgensen gun was best suited to the needs of our army and made an unanimous report to the Secretary of War to that effect.

The reason for this conclusion will be obvious to the reader. The so-called "cut off" forming a part of the Krag-Jorgensen gun was deemed an important feature, rendering the piece a readily convertible and interchangeable single-fire and magazine arm. An officer could glance along a line of soldiers and tell by their motions whether they were using the magazine or not.

It was doubtless owing to the lack of this additional feature which led to the adoption of the Krag-Jorgensen gun as against the Mauser.

Both guns have the sliding bolt for ejecting the empty shell by the backward pull, and pushing a cartridge into the receiver by the reverse action.

Smokeless powder cartridges were used in the Mauser and common black powder in the Krag-Jorgensen cartridges.

In actual practice during the Cuban war our guns made the better showing.

Much has been said about the use of explosive bullets during the Cuban war. No well authenticated cases of such use can be found either in this or any other war. In fact to those having a fair knowledge of modern warfare the use of such a bullet is deemed inefficient. Arms or bullets which kill outright are less desirable than those which disable or wound. If a soldier is disabled and carried to the rear he is a source of care and expense. If he is killed outright, he is of no further care to the enemy.

It has been truthfully asserted that the Spanish soldiers were in the habit of cutting off the points of the bullets, or sometimes grooving the points with a knife to compel them to flatten at the end, or "mushroom" when they hit an object. This is deemed an undesirable practice for the reason that a bullet thus treated is rendered uncertain in trajectory and range and of doubtful effect.

Quite a consternation has often been created in the enemy's camp by the use of "whistling bullets." By cutting a slit and raising a tongue from the side of a bullet it makes a very sharp, whistling sound as it passes through the air. The uninitiated usually seek cover when they hear these little birds sing for the first time.

Steel-coated cartridges are regarded with great favor by the best authorities. The coating is so thin that it compresses into the rifle-threads of the barrel, and is sufficiently thick to prevent stripping off and thus permit the lead of the bullet to clog and foul the gun.

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FOOD SEASONINGS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HAVE you ever thought of the many remote countries represented in the food set before you at an ordinary meal? If not, suppose you make a note of the courteous entertainers who strive to make your hour at dinner table agreeable and pleasant, and in imagination travel with them over the route from their homes to yours. Recollect all you can about their history and conditions and surroundings; even old friends usually grow on one with familiarity.

Pepper and salt are perhaps the most noticeable among them. These wellnigh universal spices have been long known and valued, and are among the most ancient of our entertainers. Pepper comes from the forests of Travancore and Malabar, whence it has been taken for culture to Java, Sumatra, Borneo, the Malay Peninsula, Siam, the Philippine Islands and the West Indies. For a long period the commerce between India and Venice, Genoa, and the commercial cities of Europe were indebted to it for a large part of their wealth. So great indeed was its value that in the Middle Ages the Portuguese were induced to seek a searoute to India to obtain it; and so exalted that in 408 it became an article of tribute, Alaric demanding three thousand pounds as part of the ransom of Rome. Penaug, Hanan, and Johore produce large quantities of it in the East, for which Singapore is now the great emporium; while tropical Africa is supplied from its native product, the Ashantee variety.

Salt is more widely distributed, and appears to occur in nearly every formation except the primary rock. Formerly, the salt of commerce was produced entirely from evaporation of sea-water, and this is still done on the seaboard. Now, probably more than half of the salt manufactured in the world comes from land deposits. Europe's famous salt-rock districts are the Carpathians, the Austrian and Bavarian Alps, West Germany, the Vosges, the Jura, the Swiss Alps, the Pyrenees and Spanish mountains, British salt deposits, and isolated deposits, and springs in Russia, Turkey and Italy; while America has inexhaustible supplies at many points. It is estimated that the entire ocean, if dried up, would yield nearly a million cubic miles of rocksalt, or about fourteen and a half times the bulk of the entire continent of Europe above high-water mark, mountain masses and all.

In the early history of the world salt was often unattainable, and even now there are places in Central Africa and other remote places where none but the rich can use it. The Odyssey speaks of inlanders who did not even know of the sea, or of salt. In parts of America and India salt was first introduced by Europeans; and incense, the chief economic and religious necessaries of the ancient world, play a great part in all we know of the ancient highways of commerce. In the United States much of our salt is obtained from mines along the Ohio River and in New York State.

The Banda Islands are chiefly known to us through their nutmegs, of which we consume more than all the rest of the western world. Almost the entire surface of the Island is planted with nutmeg trees. The warmer parts of Asia, from an early period, have been the seat of the culture of ginger, which the Greeks

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19.)

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If you suffer from any chronic kidney or bladder disease, Bright's disease, diabetes, dropsy, inflammation of the membranes, stricture, urethral inflammation, rheumatism, torpid liver, and in fact any disease occasioned by disorders of these important organs, and will send me your address at once, I will mail you absolutely FREE OF CHARGE a package of Dr. Boies' Specific, which is a standard medicine and sovereign cure for these diseases in every form and phase.



It is the product of the greatest of specialists in these complaints and has been used for years with most marvelous success. You should avail yourself at once of this splendid offer, for it costs you nothing and may save your life. There is no C. O. D. catch or fraud about it, the medicine is sent you free. Thousands of testimonials from men and women of all ages.

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THESE SUITS are made from a Genuine Wilder Scotch Cassimere, a wear resisting wool fabric, woven expressly for children's garments, good weight, light, medium or dark shades, handsome patterns, fine serge lining, Clayton padding, staying and re-inforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor made in latest 1899 style, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of. **FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES** of everything in Boys' Clothing for boys 4 to 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 15E, contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.

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Containing all the different varieties of **Fowls,** their points of beauty, their merits as LAYERS OR SITTERS—with complete instructions as to HOW TO RAISE POULTRY FOR PLEASURE OR PROFIT, the best soil on which to keep them, HOW TO FEED. MANAGEMENT of LAYERS and SITTERS—INCUBATORS—care of mother. How to bring up the chicks, improved manner of CURING ALL DISEASES in POULTRY together with minute instructions on ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION, the best incubators—how to work them.

Not only can the LARGE farmer find valuable information in this book which will be PROFITABLE—but the MAN or WOMAN who has but an ACRE of land can find immense INFORMATION that will surely bring a large profit in POULTRY RAISING. It tells HOW TO CROSS PROFITABLY. How to make selection for EGGS or for FATTENING, to increase laying, care of eggs and PACKING for MARKET. Special chapter on TURKEYS and GEESE, their care and how to fatten for market or home supply. VERMIN in poultry, how to destroy. How to improve LOSS OF APPETITE. BEST Breeds for MARKET, HOW to set a BROKEN LEG, CAPONIZING, COOKING for POULTRY, care of EXHIBITION birds. GAME FOWLS and killing for table. To PREVENT Laying. Manure—Marking CHICKENS, MILK for chickens, NESTS for Laying. Number of DUCKS to DRAKE, number of HENS to COCK, Pen for BREEDING STOCK, PRIZE POULTRY, their treatment, ROOFS, ROOSTING, RUNS, SAWDUST, Forchtling sex of chicks, SHELTER Hurdles, SPRING CHICKENS, SPANISH FOWLS. How to cure WEAKNESS after sitting, DICTIONARY of POULTRY TERMS, etc., etc. The BEST and CHEAPEST book EVER published, size 8x5½ inches, substantial paper cover, price 25cts., postpaid, including one year's subscription to **Comfort,** the grandest monthly on earth. Send us 40c. for 2 books and 2 six months' subscriptions, or best of all 6 Books and 6 six months' subscriptions for one dollar. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

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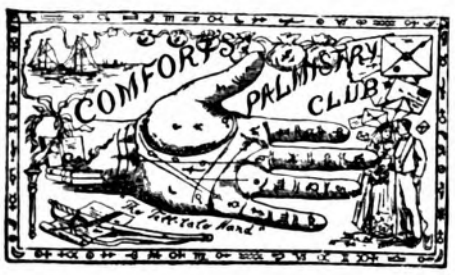
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And verily it is a "hummer."



We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, hand-tied, colored **Hammocks,** which for the next sixty days we shall place on the **Free List,** upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one **absolutely free.** These Hammocks are over 10 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends, and a strong cord along the entire length of sides. No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

A FEW words about the headline will not come amiss before we begin the readings. This line refers principally to the brain power or intellect. It may rise from three different points from the Mount of Jupiter, which is the best of all; from the commencement of the line of life, or from the Mount of Mars within the lifeline. If it begins on Jupiter and is long, touching the lifeline, the subject will have excellent energy and boundless ambition combined with reason. If the line rises on Jupiter and is slightly separated from the lifeline, the subject will have the same characteristics but will be more hasty and impetuous. If the headline and lifeline are widely separated the subject will be foolhardy and apt to overdo things.

If the line of head is connected with the lifeline at the beginning and somewhat twisted, a more sensitive disposition is shown; while if it rises on the Mount of Mars within the lifeline a fretful, worrying temperament is indicated and the subject will be more or less irritable. A straight, clear and even line gives common sense and a material mind. If the lower half slopes slightly there will be a balance between the imaginative and the practical; if the whole line slopes the subject will be romantic and imaginative and if it terminates in a fork on the Mount of Luna the subject will make a good novelist. If the lifeline is long and straight, going directly to the side of the hand, great brain power is combined with selfishness. If the line is long and curves upward on the Mount of Mars the subject will be a money-maker but a hard taskmaster. A very short line denotes a man very practical and entirely lacking in the imaginative facilities. If the line is full of hairlines and islands there is danger of brain disease, and if it terminates in an island it shows a brain trouble of which the patient will never recover. If the line turns and sends a branch to any mount, it partakes of the qualities of that line.



EXCELL.

"Excell" wants to know the meaning of the headline when dividing in the middle of the hand, one branch continuing over the Mount of the Moon and the other running down to the lifeline to the Mount of Venus. It would mean that while the person has an imaginative and idealistic turn of mind he would also partake of the characteristics of the Mount of Venus, which would give affection, sympathy, benevolence, love of beauty and color, a desire to please and a fondness for the other sex. A star on the mount of Venus indicates extraordinary success in all affairs of love; if it is in the centre of the mount it will give success in all things.

"Excell" sends his hand which is a very good one. It indicates a person of excellent character and right tendencies. A long life is indicated and many travels, especially in the latter part of the life. The early part of the life has seen a good deal of bad health but that improves as time goes on. There was an early love affair ending at about the age of twenty with some grief to the subject; it was for the best however, and he sees it now. Another love affair, which may or may not mean marriage, comes at about the age of twenty-five and continues for about twelve or fifteen years. The most fortunate one, however, comes late in life, the subject marrying at about forty-five. After this he will travel a good deal and will have an exceptionally happy married life. In a business way he has an exceptionally good hand. He will have good judgment and success will attend all he does, especially after thirty or thirty-five. He would make an excellent orator or public speaker or would be successful in politics. He is not very ambitious, but if he were he might succeed as a teacher or a lawyer. He should be a good singer, fond of music and of pictures. There are several stars in his hand all of which are favorable and one in the centre which denotes great success.



J. G. B.

"J. G. B." has a hand of different type showing an affectionate earnest nature with an even temperament and rather domestic in taste. The subject is very high minded and would scorn to do a mean or dishonorable action. She will have two marriages; one at about the age of twenty, which will last until she is thirty-five, when she will be left a widow; the second marriage will take place about seven years later and will be to a man of wealth. This subject is very gifted in music and would make a talented opera singer if she chose. Her domestic tastes, however, will keep her at home as she would prefer to marry and settle down than to make a career for herself. She will have two children by her first marriage, who will live to be a comfort to her; but she will be happier in her second than in her first marriage. On the whole, a very favorable and decidedly fortunate hand.

"Stranger" sends a plaster cast also which indicates a strictly feminine character belonging to a small and pretty woman; one who has many friends and is much admired. In some ways her hand is remarkable and indicates an unusual career. She is very ambitious and will live to be very distinguished as the result of her ambition. A good thing about her is that she has the courage and perseverance necessary to go ahead and try to be whatever she wishes to be. Her head and lifeline are sufficiently separated at first to give her energy, courage and perseverance. Her health will be good and she will have strength to carry out whatever she undertakes. She is of a nervous temperament but keeps herself under control. Her lifeline ends with a star, a sure sign that she will be famous and distinguished some day. There is a cross and a square on Jupiter, both of which are excellent signs; and the fateline, which is unusually even, starts from a star at the bottom of the lifeline; these are all uncommon and exceptionally good prognostications. There are also signs of wealth especially in old age but I think she will either inherit it or make it herself rather than to marry for wealth. There is a love affair very early in life, but there are two griefs which come before the age of twenty-five which cause her considerable trouble; after that she is free from griefs of that sort. There is a star on the Mount of Apollo which indicates brilliancy and wealth. Her celebrity is won through talent; she will probably some day be famous although this may not bring her happiness. I think there will be a dramatic side to her life and that she will have very interesting adventures. She will very much be sought after by the opposite sex, but will keep a cool head and will be quite able to take care of herself. She has a talent for the occult if she chooses to develop it, but would rather work in some particular line as a musician, or perhaps as an actress. On the whole, she has a fortunate as well as an interesting hand.



STRANGER.

There are several hands this month that are unmarked in any way and unaccompanied by letters so it is impossible to tell where they came from. I have also two letters from persons wishing to have their hands read and saying they enclosed smoked paper impressions which has not been done. Please be more careful when writing to this department and look after these details; also in living up to the requirements for having the hand read.

Digitus

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address,

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THE PHLANDERS' RATS.

A TRUE STORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



"I SHOULD like very much to know who has been cutting the balls off the curtain cords," said Lucy Phlanders at the breakfast table one morning.

"I'll bet it's the kid," said her brother, meaning thereby the Phlanders' hopeful aged two.

"Thomas," said his father in an unusually stern voice, "did you cut the balls off the curtain cords?"

"Yes, papa," whimpered Master Thomas, and therewith hid his head and shed copious tears.

"I don't believe he did."

"Humph," said Phlanders, taking refuge in his paper. He didn't relish the idea of buying a dozen or so new curtain cords every week.

The Phlanders had been in their new house about two weeks, and Mrs. Phlanders was just priding herself on having everything settled and the house in perfect order, when her brother Jim noticed one morning, that the little silk balls, that finished off the cords on the window shades, had apparently been cut off in a number of places.

Later in the morning on which the above recorded conversation took place, Lucy took Tommy in her lap and giving him a pair of scissors, and a piece of cloth, told him to cut it. Just as she expected, the youngster had not the slightest idea how to handle the scissors, and she was convinced that he had not cut off the balls.

"Well," said Phlanders, when she told him of her experiment with Tommy and the scissors, "it must be rats then, because I never heard of ghosts being in a new house."

"Oh, Tom, you don't really think there are any rats in this house do you?" and the tremor in Lucy's voice plainly showed that she did not relish the idea.

"I don't see how there can be," said Tom, half to himself, because the house is built ratproof, and then we should have heard them if they were around. But what has become of the curtain balls, if neither Tommy nor the rats took them?"

"I don't know," said his wife, and Tom didn't either.

Two or three evenings later, on returning from an entertainment, Lucy threw the roses she had been wearing into a basin of water, intending to leave them over night. To her surprise when she went for them in the morning, not a vestige of a rose could she find there.

"What in the world has become of my roses Tom?" she asked.

"What roses?"

"Why the ones I wore last night. I put them in the basin when I came home, and now they are not here."

"Then you didn't put them there," said the imperturbable Tom.

"Of course I did."

"Well, my dear, it stands to reason that if you put them there last night, they would be there now. You probably left them in the dressing room, when you put your wraps on last night."

"Well I guess——" but what is the use of repeating the conversation that ensued. Tom and Lucy both had positive natures, and though they were very fond of each other, it sometimes happened, as on this occasion that they had little quarrels. To be sure Tom kissed Lucy before he went to the office, but it was a ceremonious kiss, and didn't mean that he had receded from his position. However as he left his office that evening his thoughts wandered back to the events of the morning.

"I suppose Lucy really thought she put those flowers in the basin," he thought. "But of course she didn't, and she knows as well as I that no one could come in and take them away without our hearing them. I ought not to have contradicted her so flatly though, for that always makes her mad."

Just then he happened to look up and saw he was passing a florist's shop, and seeing some roses in the window, it occurred to him to take some home to Mrs. Phlanders as a peace offering. Lucy had had her little soliloquy too, and was all ready to be forgiven, when she opened the door for Tom, and so the little quarrel was ended by a kiss, and without further words on either side.

However, to show that the incident had not passed entirely from her mind, Mrs. Phlanders took one of the roses from the vase, and calling to her husband, said: "Tom I want you to see me put this rose in the basin where I put the others last night."

"Now," she added, as she dropped the flower into the water, "we shall see whether it will be there in the morning."

"I'll bet you five it will be right there," said Tom.

Before breakfast next morning, Lucy took Tom to the basin where they had deposited the rose on the previous night, but no rose could they find.

"Well I'll be hanged," exclaimed Tom with more emphasis than the occasion demanded. "Who would suppose that a rat could take away a rose, to say nothing of a dozen last night," he added.

"Now aren't you sorry for what you said to me yesterday?" said Mrs. Tom, preparing for the usual osculatory embrace—and she got it.

A week passed and nothing more was heard from the rats, until one evening Mrs. Lucy was seated alone in the library, when suddenly there came a noise that sounded as though an army was tramping over head.

"My heart jumped into my throat, and I know I turned as white as a sheet," she said, speaking of it later to her husband.

"Finally," she continued, "It sounded as though the army was coming down-stairs. I jumped up and screamed, but still they came on and on until the noise stopped, as suddenly as it had begun."

"I guess we will have to set a trap for those rats right away," said Tom. "There must have been three or four to make as much noise as you say they did."

"Three or four Tom! why there were a hundred, and I tell you I won't stay in this house another minute with them."

"Well a hundred is a great many my dear, but I guess we can catch them all in a couple of nights."

Accordingly on the following night, three brand new traps were baited with toasted cheese and set temptingly for the rats, but in the morning they were as empty as when they were first bought. The same experiment was tried each night for a week, but with the same result, for it seemed that the rats preferred to spend the nights tramping up and down between the floor and partitions. Mrs. Phlanders was nearly frantic, and Tom himself began to have a queer feeling of unrest.

"I'll tell you what I'll do," he said one morning at the end of the week, "I just think I'll get a couple of ferrets."

"Well if you have any pity on me, get something, and get it quick, for I shall die of fright if I have to go through another night like the last seven. You have been talking about ferrets for three days, why don't you get them?"

"I'll get something to-day to down those rats with, or my name is not Tom Phlanders."

It happened that afternoon that Lucy was entertaining one of her neighbors in the library, which is rather dark in the day time, and they were discussing the rat question, when suddenly Miss C—— exclaimed, "Why there goes one of your ferrets now."

Lucy made a jump and landed on top of her chair, with her skirts nearly to her knees, just as a huge rat ran past, and darted into the fire place.

"Ferret!" said Lucy, "that's a rat."

Miss C—— screamed and looked as though she wanted to faint. As soon as they dared, both the ladies gathered their skirts about them and beat a hasty retreat into a lighter room.

Lucy confronted Tom at the front door that evening, and barring the entrance said. "Did you bring those ferrets home?"

"No," said Tom, trying to pass her, "but —"

"Then you can take me to a hotel; I will not stay in this house another minute."

"But my dear ——"

"Oh, I know, you forgot or something, but I don't care if you did, I'm not going to stay here and be eaten alive by rats."

"You don't understand me ——"

"Yes I do Tom Phlanders, I haven't lived with you five years for nothing, and I know that you are the biggest procrastinator in the city."

"For heaven's sake do give me a chance to say something," said Tom, getting exasperated. "I didn't get any ferrets," continued Tom, as his wife seemed disposed to keep quiet a moment," but I did engage a rat-catcher to come and rid the house of the pests."

"A rat-catcher, what kind of a rat-catcher?"

"I never heard of more than one kind, and this one is like all others, a man."

"Well, I never heard of a man rat-catcher before, except the Pied Piper of Hamelin. How does he catch them?" said Lucy.

"I'm sure I don't know, but if you'll let me in I'll teil you all about it."

"When is he coming?" said Lucy, opening the door and allowing her husband to enter.

"He is coming to-night at nine o'clock and he stays until three, and I had to pay him thirty dollars to come for three nights. He says he thinks he can catch them all in that time."

Tom delivered this information at long range, and evaded further questions by rushing upstairs to dress for dinner.

A little before nine Mr. Rat-catcher arrived, accompanied by an assistant. He was a funny little man, scarcely more than five feet tall, and his face and manner somehow reminded you of rats and reptiles. He proceeded to dress himself from head to toe in a suit of red flannel, and on his feet were red flannel stockings, padded so thickly on the soles that you could not hear him walking two feet away. He had sprinkled a little oil of rhoderun over himself to make him smell like a rat he said. His only tools were a pair of tongs with long handles, a gunny sack and a dark lantern.

He seemed to know instinctively where the rat holes were and after visiting them all he selected one, and made the room perfectly dark; then he stooped down in front of the hole, and made a noise like a rat. Pretty soon Mr. Rat came running to the hole, and then the rat-catcher opened the slide of his dark lantern and threw the light right in Mr. Rat's eyes, dazzling him. Having quieted his victim for a moment, he reaches down with his tongs and fastens them on the rat, just at the root of his tail.

A few minutes later Mr. and Mrs. Phlanders were startled by seeing this red impish-looking man appear in the doorway of the library, holding a huge rat in his tongs, and exclaiming:

"Here's yer first boarder Mr. Phlanders."

That night he caught eight rats, and on each of the two succeeding nights he caught four. He told Phlanders that he thought he had them all, "but to make sure," he said, "you had better stop up all the holes but one and set a trap there." So Phlanders told his man Charles to do this, and he, having heard of the achievement of the rat-catcher, armed himself with a small pair of tongs, and sat down to watch the trap.

He had not long to wait, before out comes Mr. Rat, and puts his foot in it. Snap! goes the trap, and then up springs Charles, and grabs him, not by the root, but by the end of his tail. Woe to Charles! the rat turned quick as a flash and set his teeth in Mr. Charles' wrist. Charles dropped the rat, and the rat dropped Charles, and made for the coal bin, where he was finally captured, as he was trying to gnaw his leg off to free himself from the trap.

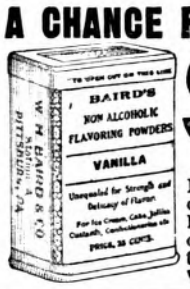
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FOOD SEASONINGS.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17.)

and Romans received by way of the Red Sea, and which was an important item in commerce between Europe and Asia in the Middle ages. The Spice Islands, in the same archipelago, have given to the world few things more popular than those unopened flowers of a tree, smoked and dried in the sun, which we call cloves; but which were named *clavus* in Latin, from their resemblance to a nail.

Caraway, so much used as a flavoring in cooking, and in drinks, cheese, cakes, and bread, comes from the northern and central parts of Europe and Asia. Dill is a native of Egypt, the south of Europe, and the Cape of Good Hope, but is also cultivated in many other places. It is used in pickles and flavoring. The origin of chervil, used in soups, is unknown. Sweet marjoram is a native of Portugal and the East. Cumin belongs to upper Egypt, and in the Middle Ages was one of the commonest spices in Europe. Vanilla is made from the capsules of *Vanilla planifolia* and *Vanilla claviculata*, natives of tropical America. Saffron was originated and cultivated in Persia and Kashmir, and carried by the Mongol invasion into China, where it is employed in cookery. Hindoos mix it with spices, and Persians and Spaniards with rice.

Assafetida is not popular with us, but is relished as a condiment in Persia and India, its native habitats, as also in France in cookery. Tumeric is very ancient, and is in much demand at home. It belongs to Southern India. The ravensara nut, of Madagascar, is also used as a spice. Other spices not popular with us, but finding approval at home, are the curry leaf and chironjie nuts of India; the juice of the tamarind tree, of the East Indies; and galingale, from the Chinese island of Hanan, mentioned by Marco Polo, and introduced into Europe by Arabian physicians. Russians like it as a flavor in their liquors, and the Tartars give their tea a new zest with it.

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Free trial packages of a most remarkable remedy are being mailed to all who will write the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back, varicocele, or emaciation of parts can now cure themselves at home.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that come from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 730 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages will be complied with promptly. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated and the free sample will enable them to see how easy it is to be cured of sexual weakness when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample, carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.



$1.95 BUYS A $3.50 Suit.
3,000 CELEBRATED "KANTWEAROUT" double seat and double knee. Regular $3.50 Boys' 2-Piece Knee-Pant Suits going at **$1.95.** A NEW SUIT FREE for any of these suits which don't give satisfactory wear.
Send No Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state age of boy and say whether large or small for age, and we will send you the suit by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to suits sold in your town for $3.50, pay your express agent our special offer price, **$1.95 and express charges.**
THESE KNEE-PANT SUITS are for boys from 4 to 15 years of age, and are retailed everywhere at $3.50. Made with double seat and knees, latest 1899 style as illustrated, made from a special wear-resisting, heavy weight, ALL-WOOL Oakwell cassimere, neat, handsome pattern, fine serge lining, Clayton patent interlining, padding, staying and reinforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor-made throughout, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of. FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of Boys' Clothing (suits, overcoats or ulsters), for boys 4 TO 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 90C. Contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.
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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE Queen of England, a royal housewife indeed, sets an example to all who have a household under their charge—for she is exceedingly particular as to cleanliness and order, in all of her numerous establishments, superintending all in a really wonderful manner, when it is taken into consideration that one of her homes—Windsor—has two thousand employes and dependents, and yet the greatest harmony prevails. Her Majesty is a kind mistress, and any servant who conscientiously performs his or her duties is sure of a place for life.

When we think of those women in less lofty station who have no time, so they say, to keep up their girlhood accomplishments, after marriage—no time for reading, study, or otherwise improving themselves and keeping up to the times, and then think of this woman who has the affairs of a great nation upon her shoulders and yet not only arranges the details of her great households and looks carefully after them, but in past years has kept up with her music, painting, reading and out-door accomplishments—then do we realize what a wonderful woman she is and feel quite ashamed of our own shortcomings with such an example of the true housewife to follow. Just because she has a great income is no reason, in her eyes, why she should not practice economy, and so she does, like any other thrifty and sensible housewife—paying her bills as she goes, wasting nothing and calling forth the admiration of all who are conversant with the facts.

Now that the value of fruits for a diet is so generally recognized, a suggestion as to the use of some of the common kinds, to which the majority of people have access, may be of value.

The apple is such a common fruit that very few people realize how efficacious are its medicinal properties—and yet every one should know that the very best thing one can do is to eat an apple just before retiring. It is excellent brain food on account of the large amount of phosphoric acid in easily digested shape; it excites the action of the liver and promotes healthful sleep. It is also a remedy for rheumatism, and aids digestion.

The lemon probably contains more valuable properties than any other fruit—as the rind, the juice and the oil are all very useful for food and medicine.

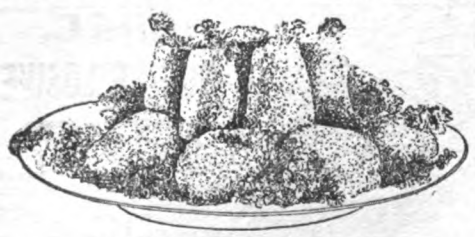
The banana is the daily bread of the inhabitants of the tropics, providing an abundance of nutrition. It is said that a given space of ground planted with bananas would produce one hundred and thirty-three times as much food substance as the same area sowed with wheat.

How many of our readers know exactly what rennet is, what it is for, and how it is made? It is made from the glutinous membrane covering the stomach of the calf, which is prepared to form a thick jelly-like substance. This is dissolved in alcohol and then is passed through a filter, and the result is a clear preparation known as rennet. It is most nutritious for dyspeptics and persons of weak digestion, and is also used by perfectly well persons, as a most delicious dish is made from milk thickened by rennet.

Regarding suggestions to the housewife, of which we spoke in our last Chats—re-curling ostrich feathers is something we all have to do occasionally. The best way to do this is to sprinkle a little salt over the feather before attempting to curl it; then hold it over a register or radiator until it is full of hot air, and then draw each tendril carefully over a blunt paper knife, or case knife. Don't try to curl them too tightly, as it is better to do them often, and so let them have the soft, drooping effect, so much more desirable than the tight curl.

Scorched linen may be restored to its proper shade by dampening it and laying it on the grass to bleach; it may be necessary to do this several times, but the stain will eventually disappear.

Bear in mind that an upright piano gives forth its best tone if placed at least two inches from a wall; also that no ornaments should be



SWEETBREAD CROQUETTES.

placed upon the top, as they deaden the sound and frequently produce a jarring noise. Never place a piano against an outside wall, for the cold and dampness are injurious; neither place it too near a register, radiator or stove, as not only the tone will be impaired, but also the case; put it, if possible, where the temperature is even at all times, and try to have it tuned twice a year, as this will keep it in good condition and so make it last for years—while a piano that is neglected in this respect will soon lose its purity of tone.

A small quantity of borax water should be poured down the kitchen sink each day, after the work is done; this will wash down all particles of matter collected in the pipe and keep it sweet, as borax is a well-known disinfectant.

To prevent the shrinkage of flannel, put it while new into clear cold water and let it remain for a week, changing the water frequently. Then wash in warm water, using a little soap. Flannel thus washed never hardens nor shrinks.

To make a cement for china, beat lime into the finest powder, sift it through muslin and then tie some in a thin muslin. Apply to the edges of the china to be mended the white of egg and then dust the lime quickly on it and unite the pieces exactly.

One of the best ways of keeping cheese moist is to wrap it in damp butter muslin and keep it in a cool place.

To clean velvet, scrape pipeclay into a fine powder over the velvet and then brush it off lightly; this will raise the pile and improve the color.

We illustrate this month chicken and sweetbread croquettes, which are made as follows:

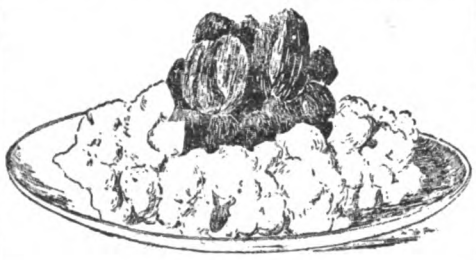
Cook, cool and chop the sweetbread, and add enough chopped chicken to make a pint in all. To one-fourth cup melted butter add one-half cup flour and cook until frothy; then add, stirring all the time, one cup chicken stock and one-third cup thin cream. Season with salt and pepper, add one well-beaten egg and the chopped meat. Cool and shape, roll in egg and bread crumbs and fry in deep fat. Garnish with parsley.

CHEESE STICKS.

Mix three cups of grated cheese, two tablespoons flour, one teaspoon salt and a few grains cayenne. Add to this the whites of six eggs beaten until stiff. Roll on a board, shaping into short sticks; roll in crumbs and fry in deep fat.

Cheese sticks are usually served with the salad course, particularly with lettuce dressed with French dressing.

Two dainty desserts are stuffed figs and pineapple foam. For the former, select fine washed figs and make an opening in the side of each and fill in with a teaspoonful of chopped nut



STUFFED FIGS.

meats. Close the opening and boil the figs until tender. Five minutes before removing from the fire add a little sugar and the juice of half a lemon—to one pound of figs. Pile in the center of a dish and around the edge put sweetened and flavored whipped cream.

PINEAPPLE FOAM.

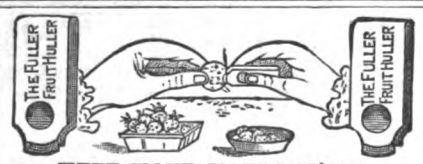
Prepare and grate a small pineapple. Beat one cup thick cream until stiff. Beat the whites of two eggs and gradually beat into them half a cup of powdered sugar; then fold in one cup thick cream beaten stiff and the grated pineapple. The juice of half a lemon should be added, as it improves the flavor. Chill and serve in glass cups.

It is said of the great singer, Sembrich, that she once, when living in Vienna, starved herself to hear Patti sing. She was, at the time, among the poorest of the poor, but so great was her longing to hear the wonderful voice of this gifted woman that she set herself seriously to work to invent ways and means to gratify her desire. She had no jewelry or anything else which she could sell, and in her little pocket-book was only barely enough to keep her in food for the two days that remained of the week. But she resolved to devote this to a ticket to the concert even if she had to go without food to pay for it. So she bought a loaf of stale bread and four potatoes, and with the remainder of her money she went to the opera house, and for six hours stood patiently in a long line of people, and at the end of this time was rewarded by getting a seat high up in the family circle. But she heard Patti, and nothing else mattered any more. She starved her body contentedly for a week while she fed her soul on her memories of Patti's glorious voice.

It was once customary in France, when a guest had worn out his welcome, for the host to serve him with a cold shoulder of mutton, instead of a hot roast. This was the origin of the phrase "to give the cold shoulder."

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Can you count the dots in the star on this Piano? If you can and your answer is correct you will receive Absolutely Free, This $500 Grand Upright Piano or its equivalent in cash. Everyone sending within one of the correct number of dots will receive a $5 prize, and everyone sending within 10 of the correct number of dots will receive a $1 prize. If more than one correct answer is received, the prize or its equivalent in cash, will be equally divided. We do not ask you to send any money, all we ask is that should you be one of the successful contestants, you will agree to sell six boxes of our famous IVOY PILLS at 25 Cents per box. Contest will close promptly at 12 Noon, July 15, 1899, when the prizes will be sent to the winners. After you have carefully counted the number of dots send your answer to us at once. Everyone has an equal chance. Distance makes no difference. Do not send any money with your answer, but send a self-addressed stamped envelope, so that we can notify you at once. Address BAY STATE DRUG & CHEMICAL CO., 42 Central St., Boston, Mass.



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THIS CAMERA AND OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING—We ask no money for it, but will give it to you free as a present for a slight effort on your part to increase our circulation. Send us 3 subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose with your letter the seventy-five (75) cents which will be payment in full for the subscriptions, and the camera and complete outfit, as here illustrated and described, will be sent you by mail or express (at our option) prepaid. All charges paid by us.



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Some Unconquered Spaniards.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN the most northern part of Spain, where the Pyrenees dip into the Bay of Biscay, is the country of the Basques, the unconquered Spaniards. These are the people of whom Cæsar, in his account of his conquest of Spain, writes, "a few pretty people, higher up in the mountains, did not make submission or send hostages." The Roman poets called these people Iberians, and pictured them as almost supernatural, whom neither hunger, heat, cold, nor armies could conquer, and whose greatest joy was facing peril.

The Basques of to-day bear the stamp of this ancient people; in character, disposition, language and customs, they are entirely different from the Spaniards south of them and indeed they can be classed with no other race of the earth. Their earliest ancestors were probably the cave dwellers of the Alps and Pyrenees, whose bones are found in the caverns of the mountains, together with the remains of those gigantic animals which were the ancestors of our present quadrupeds. Only in this tiny country, among the mountains, have these sturdy, stalwart people succeeded in retaining anything of their own individuality. If this is their true origin, their earliest ancestors must have lived twenty centuries before Christ, and have been surrounded by a country different in physical features, and covered with plants and animals which have long since ceased to exist. Since those days long ago, their whole force has been used in fighting their way in the world, in trying to preserve their racial distinction. All previous to the Roman conquest of Spain is, as far as Basque history is concerned, a blank. Even the Romans found it impossible to conquer these sons of the mountains, who, when hard pressed by armies, or beseiged in their fortified towns, dashed themselves from the highest rocks, and died by their own hands rather than surrender. At length Cæsar, with great wisdom, made them his allies, since they would not become his slaves. As followers of his army they left their mountain homes and often the tide of battle and, indeed, the trend of history has been turned by their boldness and courage. A few centuries later, it was the Basques who fell upon the army of Charlemagne and brought death and disaster to the cause of the Franks. But no sooner had they established their claim to liberty with their northern neighbors than they were met by the Saracens, who had crossed into Spain from Africa. In overcoming these usurpers, the Basques took so active a part that they were all ennobled and now there is but one class among *the Basques*; to be a Basque is to belong to the nobility.

When the late queen, Isabella, came to the throne, the Basques sent to her the following message: "Senora, in a little corner of your kingdom is a people few, living in a poor and rugged region; we will be loyal to you, if you will, as we beg you to do, respect our fueros (parliaments) and the freedom which has never been impaired."

The Basque language is unlike any European tongue and is, in fact, almost unique, for it can scarcely be classed with any other language



IN THE FIELDS.

nor is any other allied to it. It is highly inflected, each word and even each letter of the alphabet being capable of change to express many different ideas. Students of the Basque language tell us that although it is the hardest of tongues to learn, it is the richest of languages. Until the fifteenth century there was no written Basque so, of course, the literature is quite unimportant. This is a matter of much regret for had this people written traditions of the far away centuries they might throw much light upon those early days.

There are three Basque Provinces, Biscay (Vizcaya), Guiprizcoa, and Alava. Each province has its parliament, chosen by its own people and there is also a parliament of the three, which decides the general policy of the people and deals with the Spanish government.

In the mountains there are rich mines of iron, lead and zinc and the valleys are sufficiently fertile to yield grain of various kinds. Along the sea coast the fisheries are extensive.

Perhaps the strongest characteristic of the Basque nature is his deeply religious instinct and his superstitious awe of natural forces. He seems at one time to have been a pure nature worshipper and now that spirit is caught and held in his Christian observances. Yet the Basque says, "We were always Christians." In parts of the provinces are still performed miracle plays, like the noted performance of Oberammergau, the subjects being taken from the Bible or from the legends of ancient Basque romance. It is considered a great privilege to be allowed to take part, and large sums are often paid for the honor.

Such are these brave Basques, Spaniards in name only; their history reaching far back into the dim days before history was, and their character changing but little as the centuries pass. In spite of all, and through all they have kept their liberty, their unity, though they have perhaps done so at the price of progress.

TORTOISE SHELL.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TORTOISE shell is one of those commodities whose intrinsic value is such that the real article will never be cheap. Beautiful in itself, rare and difficult to obtain, it will probably never be so common or of so little value as are silver articles at the present time.

The tortoise shell of commerce is the shell or epidermis plates of the hawkbill turtle—*Eretmochelys imbricate*—a species of turtle which inhabits tropical seas. This outer shell is in thin plates, beautifully mottled and shaded; these are removed from the living animal by subjecting it to a slow heat which loosens the plates, thus allowing a thin knife to be slipped beneath them. When thus removed they are curved and irregular in form, but are easily flattened by heat and pressure, and all irregularities are rasped away. They become very plastic when heated, and as the heat also softens and liquifies a sort of film or gum on their surface they can be readily welded and pressed together while warm, and so made of an increased thickness.

The quality of tortoise shell depends mainly on the thickness and size of the scales, and secondly on the clearness and brilliancy of the colors. The best tortoise shell is that obtained in the Indian Ocean, near Ceylon; but most of that which is made in New York comes from Cuba and South America.

Tortoise shell has been a highly-prized material for ornamental purposes from very early times. It was one of the most esteemed of the treasures of the far East brought to ancient Rome by way of Egypt, and it was eagerly sought by wealthy Romans as a veneer for their rich furniture. At present it is much used in the inlaying of cabinet work known as buhl furniture, and for combs, hairpins, knife handles, eyeglass frames, and many other small articles it is highly valued. It is of late closely imitated by a preparation of horn, which, when new and fresh, is difficult to distinguish from the real article. Indeed, there have been several deft imitations of tortoise shell—compositions of celluloid and other ordinary substances, overlaid and intermingled with a small amount of the genuine shell, which are well calculated to deceive the inexperienced buyer, and which cost far less than the genuine shell, which is very expensive.

A tiny box for lip salve, less than two inches in diameter, beautifully mottled and polished, but perfectly plain, brings seven dollars; a larger one, suited for my Lady's powder puff, costs her or her admirer the small sum of fifty dollars. Exquisite photograph frames, carved and polished, may be had for twelve or fifteen dollars. Fans with tortoise shell sticks, either carved or plain are "all the rage" at present, but one needs to be a millionaire to indulge in them to any great extent, as a single specimen costs anywhere from twenty-five to five hundred dollars.

Amber tortoise shell is much more sought after to-day than the darker shades. It is newer in fashion, and more difficult to procure, as there is but little of it. It is taken from the under side of the animal, and comes off in thin, scaly pieces, harder to work than the shell which is taken from the back. The amber shell is of almost uniform color, varying only with the age of the tortoise. It has none of the beautiful mottling and veining that form the chief beauty of the darker shell, and so is not nearly as handsome. Its scarcity and its consequent high price being the sole reason for its being sought after.

HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8 cents. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRENE DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Many Japanese houses are put together without the use of nails, the timbers being mortised instead.



MEN CURED FREE.

A most successful remedy has been found for sexual weakness such as impotency, shrunken organs, nervous debility, lost manhood, night emissions, premature discharge, and all other results of self-abuse or excesses. It cures any case of the difficulty, never fails to restore the organs to full natural strength and vigor. The Doctor who made this wonderful discovery wants to let every man know about it. He will therefore send the receipt giving the various ingredients to be used so that all men at a trifling expense can cure themselves. He sends the receipt free, and all the reader need do is to send his name and address to L. W. Knapp, M. D., 1309 Hull Bldg., Detroit, Mich., requesting the free receipt as reported in this paper. It is a generous offer, and all men ought to be glad to have such an opportunity.



I USED IT HANDSOME MUSTACHE OR LOVELY HAIR Grown with our TURKISH HAIR GROWER in three weeks or money refunded. No more bald heads or smooth faces. We warrant every package and offer $1000 forfeit this is the quickest, surest, also harmless. Full treatment, 25c., 3 for 50c. Avoid dangerous imitations. TREMONT MANUF'G CO., E7, STATION A, BOSTON, MASS.

OPIUM and **Liquor Habit** cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. **Dr. J. L. Stephens, Dept. L, Lebanon, Ohio.**

PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. Botot, Box 978. Augusta, Me.

HOW DOES HE DO IT?

Prof. Weltmer's Unprecedented Success Continues to Dumbfound and Astonish the Scientific World.

No discovery of late years has created such a profound sensation as Prof. Weltmer's method of healing the sick.



PROF. WELTMER.

Medical and scientific men the world over stand aghast at the wonders being performed by this new and grand method. That it does the work has never been questioned for a single moment as prominent men and women everywhere endorse it. Rev. Jas. O. Swinney, founder of Pritchett College, Glasgow, Mo., after suffering for many months with bladder, stomach and prostatic troubles, and failing to get even relief through old time methods, was cured by this great healer. Mr. J. S. Small, Colfax, Ill., was totally deaf in his left ear for three years. Was fully restored by Prof. Weltmer in three days. Not only does Prof. Weltmer cure hundreds of people at his infirmary at Nevada, Mo., but he possesses the remarkable ability to cure at a distance, and does this with the same wonderful ease. Hon. T. T. Rodes, Prosecuting Attorney, Paris, Mo., was greatly afflicted with sciatic rheumatism. He was restored in 30 days by absent treatment. Mr. H. E. Rose, Novelty, Mo., had a large goitre on his neck that was literally choking him to death. It was removed in a single night by this eminent healer without seeing him. Thousands, all over the world, relieved in the same manner. This is positively the only known method that will restore lost vitality and kindred troubles. A copy of the Magnetic Journal, a forty page illustrated magazine, giving a list of the most miraculous cures on record, will be sent free to any sufferer.

TEACHES HIS ART TO OTHERS. Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making $10.00 to $50.00 per day. Taught by mail or personal instructions. Address, Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada. Mo., The American School of Magnetic Healing.

$2.50 TAN COVERT COAT



A STYLISH SPRING, SUMMER and FALL OVERCOAT AND A WATERPROOF RAINCOAT in one. **SEND NO MONEY,** cut this ad out and send to us, state your Height and Weight, state number inches around body at Breast taken over coat, close up under arms and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D. subject to examination. Examine and try it on at your nearest express office, and if found exactly as represented, the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00 pay the express agent **$2.50** and express charges. Our Special Offer Price,

THIS HANDSOME COAT is made from a genuine HAINSEL plain medium TAN COVERT ENGLISH WATERPROOF CLOTH, lined with a fancy plaid Hainsel waterproof lining, vulcanized by the celebrated Selkirk process, with the best English rubber compound to make it waterproof. IT IS A PERFECT, HANDSOME WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH COAT, and cut short and made single breasted, fly front, makes a very stylish overcoat for Spring, Summer and Fall. While lined and vulcanized for a waterproof Mackintosh, worn as an overcoat, no one can tell it from the most stylish $20.00 Spring Overcoat. Fine Tailor Made, latest style for 1899, fly front, correct overcoat length, velvet collar, sanitary arm fittings. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY. For Free Cloth Samples of everything in men's tailoring, SUITS $5.50 AND UP, WRITE FOR FREE BOOK No. 5E. (This firm is thoroughly reliable—Editor.)
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL.

ASTHMA Instant relief and positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. F. G. KINSMAN, M. D., Box 727, Augusta, Maine.

CHILD LOST For 18 years. Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C, 245, Saratoga, New York.

RUPTURE SURE CURE at home; at a small cost. No operation, pain, danger or detention from work. No return of Rupture or further use for Trusses. A complete, radical cure to all (old or young) easy to use, thousands cured, book free (sealed.) DR. W. S. RICE, Box C, Adams, N. Y.

30 DAYS' FREE TRIAL.

To men who have battered their stomachs with drugs I want them to exercise their judgment and consider that Electricity is the greatest power on earth. Quickly puts life and force into whatever it touches. Gives instant relief and never fails to cure Rheumatism, Backache, Kidney Troubles, Early Decay, Night Losses, Lack of Nerve Force and Vigor, Nervous Debility, Undevelopment and Lost Vitality. You may not have faith in it now, but wear it for 30 days free on trial and you will then realize why I have such confidence in my Electric Belt as to send it to you on trial as I do. Remember if after the 30 days trial you are not satisfied return the belt to us and it will cost you nothing. Write today for Illustrated Pamphlet with references and signed testimonials. Sent free in plain sealed envelope. Prof. A. Chrystal, Inventor, 447 Postoffice Block, Marshall, Mich.

SUGAR 2 1-2c. lb. pkgs. Coffee 10c. Bar Soap 1c. 20 Envelopes 1c. Silk Ties 8c Knee-pants 12c. Caps 9c. Shoes 23c. Boys' suits 79c. All goods 1-3 value. Bargain list FREE. DOUGLAS COMPANY, Wonewoc, Wis.

YOUR LIFE FORETOLD, written prediction of your life. Send age, sex, lock of hair, 10 cents. PROF. G. RUPPERT, Boston, Mass.

YOUR FUTURE LIFE COMPLETE is LOVE, MARRIAGE and BUSINESS, AS PREDICTED by ASTROLOGY. Send TIME of BIRTH, SEX & 10c. for Written Prediction. PROF. RENFREW, MEDFORD, MASS.

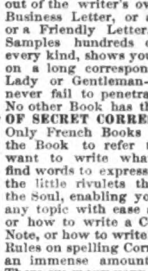
BED-WETTING CURED Sample Free. Dr. F. E. MAY, Bloomington, Ill.

MONEY MADE EASY By disposing of sizes 1, 2, 5-10 for good money Send 6c. in stamps for samples and particulars. J. A. McNEIL, Dept. 45, P.O. Box 2016, New York

Prof. Baron's Complete Instructor in all

The Society Dances of America.

All the Figures of the German and Every New and Fashionable Waltz, Round and Square Dance known in Europe or America. The Author is the most celebrated Teacher of Dancing in America, and he has made this Book so Simple and Plain that any child can, by reading it, become an expert in Dancing without the aid of a Teacher. No other Book on Dancing will compare with this. All the Latest and Fashionable Dances are minutely described by illustrated Figures from Life, Explaining Positions in Round Dances &c. and this Original Method enables persons to learn the Waltz by practicing it a very few times, and you will have no difficulty in acquiring it. It gives the History of Dancing, Etiquette of the Ball Room, the Opening March and March in Line, the Serpentine, the Arbor, the Flatoon and Column Marches, the Position in Quadrilles or Square Dances, and Explaining their Movements, the Variety Quadrille, the Quadrille Star, the Quadrille Sociable, the Waltz Quadrille No. 1 and 2, the National Guard Quadrille, the Caledonians, the New Polo Quadrille, the Lancers, the Saratoga Lancers, the Waltz Lancers, the Five Positions in Round Dances, the Modern Waltz, the New Social Waltz, the Redowa, the Redowa Glissade, the Polka, the Polka Mazourka, the Polka Redowa, the Bohemian Heel and Toe Polka, the Schottische. THE GERMAN—116 Figures, giving the Names and Full Description of each, and how to dance them correctly. It is a book of great value. Price 25 Cents or Three for 50 Cents.



SPECIAL. Send 50 cents to-day for a two years' subscription to our popular monthly SUNSHINE and we will send all three, "The Book of Politeness," "Society Dances," and "Letter Writer," free. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**

Young Americans Letter Writer.

Or the New Art of Polite Correspondence. A Book that Will Lead You on to Fame.

Adapted for Both Sexes. This isthe Best Letter writer published in Eourpe or America. It teaches how to write a Letter on any subject out of the writer's own head, or to compose a first class, intelligent Business Letter, or a Love Letter, or a Friendly Letter. It gives as Samples hundreds of Letters of every kind, shows you how to carry on a long correspondence with a Lady or Gentleman—Letters that never fail to penetrate the Heart. No other Book has this MYSTERY OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE. Only French Books have it. It is the Book to refer to when you want to write what you cannot find words to express. It opens all the little rivulets that start from the Soul, enabling you to write on any topic with ease and elegance; or how to write a Complimentary Note, or how to write for the Press, Rules on spelling Correctly, on Punctuation, on Directing Letters, and an immense amount of information to be found in no other book. There are many young people who are good scholars, but are woefully deficient in Ordinary Letter Writing. They receive letters from friends, that they postpone answering on account of their own ignorance of elegant letter writing, until at last they remain unanswered, and they lose their correspondent. Many a son or daughter at school, receive beautiful letters from home, and wonder why they cannot write such letters in return. It is because you need Practical Instruction in Letter Writing. Price by mail 25 cents, or Three copies for 50 cents.



SPECIAL. Send 50 cents to-day for a two years' subscription to our popular monthly SUNSHINE, and we will send all three, "The Book of Politeness," "Society Dances," and "Letter Writer," free. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**

The STANDARD BOOK on POLITENESS

Good Behavior and Social Etiquette. Your Manners May Be Your Fortune.

At last the door is opened and the riddle solved. This Book gives Practical Advice and knowledge to all that desire to enter Society or Business Perfect and Graceful in their Manners. There is a SOMETHING in this Book that our Artist could not illustrate nor could we find words to express it. Were you ever at a friendly gathering where everything seemed to go wrong—guests all separated by a barrier of reserve—gloom settling down on the scene, when all at once a person enters who seems gifted with a spell, like that of the old Magicians, the gloom disappears, the ice thaws and they all enjoy themselves. This Book tells that great Secret—how to so behave that your society will be courted and sought after by every one. This is the wonderful power of Manners. It is worth to you more than Beauty. True Politeness, as this Book teaches it, will give you access to any family in America, and then you want nothing but opportunity to become great. It is a charm better to possess than talent or wealth. This Book embraces the Usages and Customs of Good Society, Etiquette, Social Intercourse, Dress, Introduction, Cards, Letters and Presents, Conversation, Morning Calls, Dinners, Balls, Evening Parties, Love, Courtship and Marriage, Ridding and Driving, the Promenade, Boating, Staying with Friends, etc. It teaches how to act in any emergency, or enter any society without embarrassment, and how to avoid incorrect and vulgar habits, in the Street, at Home, or in Society. It is a Perfect Guide to New Beginners in fashionable life. Parents should purchase this Book, and keep it where their Sons and Daughters can easily refer to it. It is a Text Book of Gentility. It will bring out the finer qualities of a Lady or Gentleman, even if you were born in the backwoods. Price 25 Cents, or Three for 50 cts. by mail.



SPECIAL. Send 50 cents to-day for a two years' subscription to our popular monthly SUNSHINE, and we will send all three, "The Book of Politeness," "Society Dances," and "Letter Writer," free. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

TEA SET FREE

56 PIECES.



Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 56 p ece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. B, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!

Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.



No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph** of **medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. **FREE.** This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.
THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

A May day greeting to you all, my dears, and may your lives be full of buds to blossom into beauty and fragrance as the summer develops their growth. How the time flies, doesn't it? And how the summers run round on each others' heels. But there is no room for any talk except business, because there are so many of you this month.

The first one comes from Know Nothing, far away in Minnesota at Winstead, and she is worried because her sweetheart makes love to her, but gives her no ring, nor presents. Accept the attention of some other young man and let this one see some of the presents the other one gives you, and that will bring him around. Some men are stupid and some are stingy.

Fifteen and Sixteen, Monroe, Utah.—When a girl is of age, she can marry without her parents' consent, but it is not always best to do so. (2) There is no fixed age when people become old maids or old bachelors.

M. P. T., Waco, Texas.—Tell him it was your fault; explain it to him, and if he wants to he will come back.

A. B. C., Keyworth, Ills.—Brown and blue blend very richly and prettily for a combined wedding and traveling suit. A bride often wears a traveling gown at church, but as a rule a different dress is worn even though it is not a church wedding, as that term is generally understood. She would hardly carry flowers in any profusion.

V. A. T., Belfast, Me.—The wedding ring goes on the third finger of the left hand.

Genevieve, Mitchell, Ind.—It is proper for a young lady to visit the home of her sweetheart, when his sister is her intimate friend. (2) Don't give your picture to a young man unless with good reason. (3) Don't wear gloves at graduation unless all the other graduates do.

Rosebud, Palmerville, N. C.—A woman may marry a man younger than she is, but it is not best as a rule. (2) Engaged people may kiss each other. (3) There are many times when a daughter is justified in marrying without her parents' consent. (4) If a girl loves the man who proposes to her she ought to be able to answer him in about two minutes.

Lillie M., Lancaster, Ky.—Don't try to reduce your fat without consulting a physician. (2) It is safe in answering work advertisements to know what you are going to get before you pay out any money.

Black Jacks, Norman, Okla.—The lady can assist the young man on with his overcoat if he will let her; and so she can look after his hat. (2) The man usually precedes the woman unless she knows where the place is and he doesn't. (3) Ask a man to call again.

Brave Heart, Roseville, Cal.—Keep on trying to write acceptable matter. You don't know how or when some of it would be accepted. Try it on your local paper. Publishers usually have a fixed price for matter they accept.

Pansy H., Fairmount, Minn.—A girl of seventeen may accept the escort of a young man even though she may have an elder brother. (2) Write to any music publishing firm advertised in COMFORT or elsewhere.

Maud McL., Greencastle, Pa.—Write to Sup't. Cooper Union Woman's Art School, Cooper Institute, New York City for what you want to know about sculpture.

Two Sisters, Fruitport, Mich.—Young women of twenty may take evening strolls with well-selected young men, but not too often or too long. (2) Young men ought to be home by eleven. (3) Dancing in moderation is not harmful.

Curley, Cowlesville, N. Y.—I know of no firm, dear, that will buy your homemade crochet work. It is very hard to find "pleasant employment at home" and make a living at it.

Mary Agnes, Roscoe, N. Y.—The June-berry is the same as the service-berry. See the dictionary. Don't you mean Juniper berries instead of Jupiter berries?

Constance, London, Ont.—Gymnastics might add a little to your width, but scarcely to your height. You are just the right size, the way you are, if you want to be cute and catchy.

Little Lady, Chicago, Ills.—Other things being equal, marry the man who is five years older.

Leonora, DeSoto, La.—Apply to the minister of the church you attend to know about missionaries. It is the only way to find out. (2) Postage to China, Japan and Cuba, five cents an ounce.

The Twins, Redlands, Cal.—There is no such list of recent fiction that I know of. You can very easily get a dozen times as many good books as you can get time to read.

Sunday, Peoria, Ills.—Girls of eighteen do not wear their hair down, nor do they wear Tam O'Shanters, usually. There are so many pretty summer gowns that I do not know one from another to describe.

Daisy L., North Branch, Iowa.—It is probably the best way to take the seed out of the mouth with a fork or spoon. A sandwich is eaten by biting right into it and you may break off as much bread as you please. Those are things to be done in the most graceful way possible.

If Cousin Mamie, of Whitman, Mass., will write to L. H. Bissell, Effingham, Ills., she may learn something about photography that she wanted to know.

Monitta, Well, Minn.—See COMFORT advertisements for Stamp Photos. (2) No, a girl of seventeen and boy of twenty should not marry.

Frightened Heart, Marshall, Mich.—The only way to handle a man of that sort is to meet him with a shotgun or a dishpan full of scalding water.

Brown Eyes, Longview, Texas.—Simply say you will take his hat and coat, suiting the action to the word. (2) You may go to the door with him or not as you wish, but you should always ask him to call again. (3) Thank him and accept his escort when he asks you, that's all.

Sylvia, Quitman, Mo.—It is proper for the sitting person to rise upon an introduction. (2) A young man may assist the lady in taking off her jacket in church, or in putting it on. (3) Don't have your picture taken with a young man, and please don't say "have went."

R. J. F., Goldendale, Wash.—A gentleman may ask to be presented to the lady if it has been overlooked.

Curly Head, Baltimore, Md.—Be properly introduced to the young man or do not know him at all. (2) Always introduce the gentleman to the lady.

Gertrude, Girardville, Pa.—Do exactly as you please about asking your escort into the house, only don't ask him in if it is late, say ten thirty. (2) There is no way of getting rid of annoying men unless you call in the help of other men.

Millie Trent, Feitel, La.—Send your letter to the Admiral in care of the Navy Department, Washington. (2) Be slow about exchanging photographs with young men.

Butter Cup, Rush River, Minn.—The lady should be on the man's left, walking or riding. (2) Don't be too anxious about the bicycle boots being put on.

A. V. E., Salesville, Mont.—Weddings before justices or at preachers' houses are conducted about as the participants want to have them. Any way will do. (2) The husband gives the bride a present; the bride may give one if she wants to. (3) Husbands don't have wedding rings.

J. C., Louisville Ky.—Phrenology is a science. Talk to any reputable physician in your city.

Eva E., Chaplin, Ills.—Don't advertise. What is better is not to worry about having your palm read until you have money to pay for it with.

Sara and Maysie, Rosedale, Ohio.—Don't use an eyebrow penciller; it is bad. (2) The lady speaks first. (3) With your semi-blond hair you can wear almost any color.

Leona Belmont, Crown River, Minn.—Time, dear Cousin Leona, is a splinter from the sawlog of eternity. (2) There would be no sound unless the bell made vibrations sufficiently strong to reach where there was an ear to record the movement.

Fay, Lumber Pridge, N. C.—Better not write to the soldier for his photograph yet awhile. (2) The best age at which women should marry is between twenty and thirty.

Ignorant Girl, Cicero, Ind.—The gentleman may be your friend and you may call him so, but do not refer to him as a "gentleman friend." It has grown to be the Bowery style. (2) A lady may pass a pleasant word with the man in the store and she may not be a particle icy and frigid. Be a lady, that is enough.

Blanche, Springfield, Mo.—By all means, explain to the man exactly the situation, and set matters right.

There, that is all for this time. Some of the cousins will not find their letters here, but they will find their questions answered to some other cousin. Some again ask such silly questions about love and beaus that I am ashamed of them. Again let me ask the cousins not to ask so many questions at once. Some will send in a dozen questions, most of which have been already answered for them, if they would only read this column every month. Now dears, run along and play, and be as happy as you can. By by.

$4 PAID per 1,000 for distributing circulars, samples and booklets. Send 10 cts. for box and particulars. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. **MALENA CO., Warriorsmark, Pa**



$2,000.00 IN PRESENTS. CAN YOU COUNT OUR TABLETS?
To the person or persons counting correctly the tablets we will give **$50.00** in cash. To the nearest correct we will give **$25.00**, to the second nearest correct a **Gold Watch**, to the third nearest correct **$10.00** cash and to all others who count within four of the correct number we will give **One Dollar** prize. If two or more are tied for any of the larger prizes, the same or its equivalent in cash will be divided equally. Everyone has an equal opportunity distance makes no difference. Each contestant must enclose 10 cents (postage) for free box Doree Tablets, a positive cure for Dyspepsia and Debility. Presents sent this month. Address **Fred Schwartz Chemical Co., Philadelphia, Pa.**

Prize Picture Puzzles

REWARDS GIVEN TO ALL CONTESTANTS.

READ OUR OFFER

To increase the subscription list of our unique and interesting family monthly publication **The Home Treasury,** we here make a grand **Prize Picture Puzzle** offer. You see in this advertisement 8 Pictures in each of which is a hidden person that you can find by **careful study of the scenes.** When you find the person, mark the outlines thereof with **a pen or pencil.** When you have discovered the entire 8, you are entitled to our **Grand Prize Combination** of printed prizes below mentioned, which will be sent to you in one bundle, postage prepaid. All you need do is solve the Puzzles, clip out this advt. and return to us with **25 cents** to pay for a year's subscription to **The Home Treasury,** then you will be entitled to receive the **Grand Prize Combination** by mail promptly. Now just bear in mind, no honest concern can give you gold dollars for 25 cents but we can afford to **reward you** with the following **combination of goods, all printed,** and as described below, when you **solve the Puzzles** and send 25 cents for a yearly subscription to **The Home Treasury.** Do not delay, answer to-day and be happy! We guarantee the prize to all but will throw letters into waste basket that don't contain 25 cents. As to our **reliability** we refer to any publisher or **bank;** we always do as we agree. Read the list and remember you get everything named below. **Our Grand Prize Combination contains all the following:** **A Library of 10 New and Interesting Books,** (64 mo. 16p. size) on different subjects, each of which we feel sure **will delight you. 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No. 1. The mother is asking the boy where his nurse is; he says he does'nt know, yet she is right in the room. Find her.



No. 5. This man would like to catch the boy who has broken his windows, yet the lad is near him. Can you see him?



No. 2. The boy is having trouble with the bull, and needs help. Is no one near? Yes, there's a man holding his whip. Find him.



No. 6. See if you can find the grotesque imp that haunts this pool and for whom the water nymph is calling.



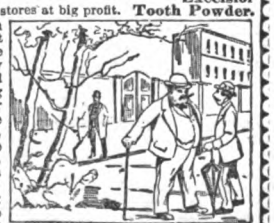
No. 3. The lady is looking for her husband. She cannot see him, although he is near by. Suppose you try.



No. 7. Here is the wolf, hungry for Little Red Riding Hood who is near by. Can you pick her out?



No. 4. The Artist believes he could make a better picture if he could see the little girl whom he hears singing. Can you see her?



No. 8. These men are talking about a woman. They don't see her, yet she is near by, listening to all they say. See her!



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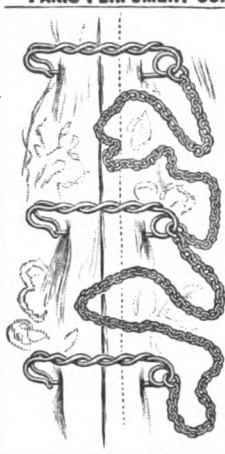


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SUMMER begins as the sun reaches the solstice, or first point of the sign Cancer. This occurs at about 24 minutes before 11 in the forenoon of the 21st day of June, this year. At the time Neptune, the sun and Mercury are all in the 10th house and Venus is near the cusp in the 9th house almost upon the south meridian. Mars has risen and is in the 12th house; Jupiter is in the second house; the moon is conjoined with Herschel in the 3rd house and Saturn is in the 4th house.

Mercury rules both the ascendant and midheaven, and is in the 10th in favorable aspect with both Mars and Jupiter, as also is the sun; the latter having almost the exact trine of the great benefic, stands in the house of the Nation's Treasury. This indicates the inflowing of liberal revenues and strong support to the National Administration and harmony between the governing authorities and the people.

Mars excites the military ardor and keeps alive the patriotic sentiment of the masses. Scholars and distinguished men meet with honor at the hands of the Government. There may be some scandalous developments growing out of private enmities between individuals in the civil government and the war service. There is also an indication of some bad pestilential disease during this quarter and the sanitary authorities are urged to be more than ever on the alert against the introduction of anything like yellow fever, especially during the latter part of the summer near the last days in August, being particularly careful that the United States Mails do not prove the channel through which some serious epidemic trouble is introduced. The last part of August seems to be peculiarly contributive to public excitement, and bad fires and explosions and railroad accidents are to be particularly guarded against at that time. There will be some trouble in our extreme northern possessions over disputed lands or boundaries and probably some serious conflict of armed men in those regions. Saturn in the 4th does not promise so favorably for the farming community in some sections and he is likely to give some cold and unproductive conditions such as to retard vegetation to some extent, particularly during the first two-thirds of June.

There will be two eclipses in June—a partial eclipse of the sun on the 8th and a total eclipse of the moon on the 23rd. Neither of these eclipses will be visible in Washington, our seat of government, though that of the sun is visible in Europe, Alaska, and the extreme northeastern part of Russia. The eclipse of the moon is visible in Asia and the Pacific Ocean. The indications from all these phenomena are that there will be some unusual strife in the northern regions of Europe and Asia and particularly in the Northeastern and Eastern part of Asia, probably Russia, Japan and China, with probability of bad floods and disturbing earth phenomena there.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JUNE, 1899.

JUNE. 1—Thursday. This day has but little to recommend it, and conditions bid thee pause before engaging in any matter of importance; give thy landlord a wide berth in the forenoon and noon hours, when all matters of real estate are best avoided. REGULUS desires to strongly impress upon the minds of all persons born in the first ten days of this month and of March, September, or December, of past years, the necessity for extreme caution in all matters pertaining to health and finance for several months to come; particularly should initiation of new ventures of magnitude be avoided for a time and the affairs of the life be conducted very conservatively rather than with venturesomeness or aggressiveness. The late evening hours are the best in the day for any extended mental efforts and for correspondence of consequence and they should be given the preference over any part of the day for such work.

2—Friday. Aside from the general injunction contained in the preceding paragraph this day is a fair one, especially for movements in matters pertaining to great corporations or with National, State, or municipal authorities, and persons claiming this as the anniversary of their birthday, if of suitable age at this time, are likely to be more or less concerned with public or corporate affairs at this period in their life, out of which a certain measure of benefit will be eventually derived though attended with many hindrances and delays; as matters in such lives generally in this year abound in disappointments and have tardy progress.

3—Saturday. One of the best days of the month. Urge business vigorously; particularly such as concerns houses and lands; deal in such commodities as coal, iron petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain and, with discretion, in mining and railroad stocks provided thy nativity is favorable also in this respect at this time; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with persons engaged in fiduciary capacities; purchase goods for sale again in the forenoon, when also have thy dealings with persons of wealth or with banks or other monied concerns; experiment in chemistry, make engagements with machinists, manufacturers, and mechanics generally.

4—Sunday. Unfavorable for church matters; their pecuniary affairs are unsatisfactory for the day, or financial matters are adversely affected; the musical portion of religious worship will be most favored; the day is unfortunate in its tendencies in social matters and inclines to the pursuit of pleasure, which without unusual restraint will lead into dangerous walks; keep a healthful check upon excitable impulses.

5—Monday. Be up betimes and push thine efforts in nearly all affairs and matters of an intellectual and artistic character if now begun will be successful unless the nativity be very evilly afflicted; and even if such be the case, the time is probably as favorable as any that can be chosen in the passing days; press all engagements pertaining to literature and the fine arts, execute contracts concerning same; launch literary productions unless specifically advised otherwise in this column; engage with printers, publishers, travelers, teachers, and mathematicians and pursue all scientific researches; the afternoon and evening are fortunate for important moves with reference to music and the drama and also for social enjoyments, urging thy suit with the fair sex, and pleasure-seeking with moderation.

6—Tuesday. Bridle the tongue in the morning lest quarrels come; have no dealings with mechanics nor with builders; and generally conduct thine affairs with prudence and moderation, carefully avoiding hasty decisions and precipitate action; do not expect much favor from thy dealings with large corporate bodies, such as railroads, electrical companies, and City, State, or National authorities.

7—Wednesday. Urge general business during the day; prosecute mathematical and scientific studies; deal with the intellectual classes, booksellers, publishers, printers, judges, and lawyers; do not take the time, however, to change thy place of residence, nor for making any business engagement with persons handling patents or patented articles.

8—Thursday. Partial Eclipse of the sun. One of the most unfortunate days of the month. The forenoon particularly brings baffling experiences and is more likely to bring disappointment from the ventures then inaugurated; do not begin any journey in the morning hours and beware of incurring the displeasure of those in authority; the criminal classes will be unusually disturbed during the night hours between the 7th and 8th and unfortunately moved to malice and violence; the vital energies will be low in such hours and sudden collapse in all serious afflictions is to be carefully guarded against. These suggestions are peculiarly appropriate for persons born about the 12th of January, 11th of March, 29th of May, 8th of June, 13th of July, 12th of September, 30th of November, and 10th and 17th of December, of past years, and such persons will need to exercise more care than usual this year and near this time as well as near their birthday anniversaries, in all their business ventures and in matters of health; ladies so born, are likely to be now in the midst of sad or trying experiences in family, domestic, or heart affairs; with the late hours of the day begins much improved and more buoyant conditions, in which the vigorous prosecution of affars is contributed to.

9—Friday. This is a very favorable day, inviting business activity, travel, and pecuniary benefits from dealings with banks and wealthy persons; buy goods for trade; speculate, if thy nativity be fairly favorable; sign writings; urge literary and scientific pursuits and apply for favor and advancement in thy several stations.

10—Saturday. Conditions on this day are baffling and disappointing and matters of much moment are best deferred awhile; have no dealings with thy landlord nor with contractors, plumbers, miners, farmers, nor any engaged in the dirty or laborious occupations; the evening hours are rather more favorable and contribute enjoyment from the musical, artistic, dramatic, and social entertainments and engagements.

11—Sunday. The mind inclines toward the elegant in literature and imagination will be especially active, though church matters are not favored.

12—Monday. Keep thy tongue under due restraint during the better part of this day, nor be rash in decision in business engagements; quarrels and contentions are easy of birth and criminal activity and violence abound at this time; let all be careful in handling fire and explosives.

13—Tuesday. The inventive faculties are excited here to successful efforts; urge all commercial contracts and dealings with monied institutions; buy goods for trade and apply personally for favor from public officers, superiors in authority, and tradesmen; do not expect the usual pleasure from the drama or from the social or musical entertainment in the evening.

14—Wednesday. Give preference to the forenoon hours for the most important commercial or financial transactions, but have care as the noon is approached after which do not look for much consideration from employees of the government or of railways or other great corporations; neither should any dealings with usurers or very old or eccentric persons be had.

15—Thursday. This day is only indifferent in promises of good, and as the evening approaches it bids fair to be absolutely evil; let all be cautious during the latter hours of this day and the forenoon of the next for deceit and treachery are abroad; sign no deeds or notes nor enter into any contract of importance; such things are best postponed a little; do not engage help or begin journeys. In the coming 24 hours bankers and merchants will be wise to scrutinize signatures on money writings. Some bad forgery or swindling operations come to light; nervous diseases are aggravated and persons having charge of the insane should be watchful of their patients during these passing days, being on guard against malice and cunning likely to be displayed by them; the intellectual classes and the literary and educational interests have in the past week suffered unusual detriment and increased mortality and business embarrassments are likely at this time among the *literati*, especially apparent in the suggestions for the 8th instant.

16—Friday. As already pointed out, the forenoon of this day is evil and ought not to be taken for beginning anything of consequence; but as the noon is passed improve every moment in the pursuit of art, music, or any of the elegant avocations; deal in fancy goods and engage in works of decoration or adornment; have the social entertainment and seek pleasure from the fine arts in every direction; urge thy suit with the fair sex and pursue all the artistic lines in the literary field.

17—Saturday. Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost; for buying goods for trade and for money transactions generally; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler, and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books are peculiarly favored.

18—Sunday. The best Sabbath day of the month, being excellent for improvement of the mind, propitious for religious exercises, and fortunate in a pecuniary sense for church matters.

19—Monday. Urge business of all kinds especially during the forenoon, preference being given, however, to such as depend upon mental labor. The day is especially favorable for literary work and prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies.

20—Tuesday. One of the depressing days of the month, in which it will not be wise to make any beginnings of consequence, and in which only routine matters should have attention; beware of entering into any deal pertaining to real estate.

21—Wednesday. Be slow to anger during this day; beware of litigation and contention at this time and be very careful if compelled to be about machinery and in the use of firearms or fires. To the fair sex the influences are ominous and REGULUS warns them against treachery and deceit, especially in matters pertaining to matrimony. Some scandalous report or revelation in divorce proceedings is likely to come to the surface here. The female sex meet strange and unfortunate experiences and encounter mischievous conditions for health. Proprietors of theaters and places of amusement should beware of making engagements on this day and should likewise be on the alert against fire and violence of the elements in these passing days. Marriageable ladies born about the 21st of February, 25th of May, 27th of August, or 26th of November, of past years, had better postpone for a season their ventures upon the sea of matrimony, for the social engagement or married life now begun will be full of discord, disappointment, sorrow and unhappiness. Conditions also severely test the already existing marital and betrothal bonds of ladies so born and the greatest circumspection will be needed in all the affairs of their lives.

22—Thursday. Avoid thy landlord on this day nor have any dealings with contractors, miners, farmers, plumbers, plasterers, or builders. The day does not encourage making beginnings in any enterprise.

23—Friday. Total Eclipse of the Moon. The very early morning and forenoon hours are the best. Use the early part of the day for money transactions or negotiations with banks and dealings with the wealthy classes; seek no favor from persons in public positions in the forenoon, but as the noon is passed bend every energy to the prosecution of thine affairs. The afternoon is full of energy and enterprise and invites activity in all the walks of life but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travelers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry with caution.

24—Saturday. The morning is very unfavorable for most undertakings, prompting rest rather than exertion and urging unusual caution in all acts, the avoidance of disputes or controversies and as much as possible all danger of accidents or hurts; let the tongue be kept well under control; the night and morning influences contribute to combustion and explosion, so have unusual care. Some bad disaster of this nature is likely in the passing hours.

25—Sunday. Rest late and look not for much satisfaction from pulpit utterances or religious discourse during the forenoon; though the afternoon gives much improvement in this particular and is the best part of the day for mental effort and the interest of all in the ecclesiastical callings.

26—Monday. Begin this day with the sun and improve every available moment, particularly in the pursuit of art, music, and in all the elegant avocations; deal in fancy goods and engage in works of decoration or adornment, especially such as pertain to houses or land; make engagements with architects, horticulturalists, and civil engineers, and deal with real estate men, miners, farmers, and all the classes concerned in building public works.

27—Tuesday. Have transactions with banks and monied men in the forenoon hours, but put on the "caution cap" as the noon hour is passed. The last half of the day is full of excitement and contention and it will require a cool head and even temper to resist being drawn into unpleasant controversies or predicaments. Persons born about the 18th of February, 23rd of June, 21st of August, 25th of October, or 22nd of December of past years, are likely to be now in the midst of more prosperous conditions and have improved health, while some temporary pecuniary embarrassments or unusual demands upon the purse, and, in some cases, poorer conditions of health result to persons born about the 19th of January, 22nd of April, or 25th of July, of past years.

28—Wednesday. Make no engagements towards wedlock nor expect much success in the elegant pursuits or from dealings in dry goods or fancy or ornamental wares. REGULUS especially advises the fair not to let wealth tempt them to wed in these passing days, especially where there is much disparity of years between the contracting parties, for disappointment and unhappiness lurk in the background and are likely to fall to their lot, particularly if their birthday anniversaries fall upon the days indicated in the 8th paragraph.

29—Thursday. Be up before the sun and employ every moment of the day; literary labors are performed with more facility from the midnight until the noon of this day; the day should be chosen for dealings with persons in the government service or with persons in charge of large corporate interests; or concerned with patents or patented articles, or with chemists, druggists, electricians and manufacturing interests.

30—Friday. Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost, for buying goods for trade and money transactions generally; give preference to the afternoon for affecting engagements of consequence pertaining to the artistic pursuits and to real estate and its improvements; also for dealings with farmers, contractors and builders, plumbers, ship-joiners, and in agricultural implements and products.

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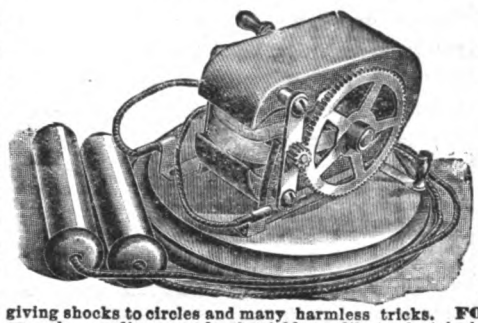
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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Agnes Repplier is known and loved through her work by a large part of the reading public. Essays are still a popular form of reading to the thinking class of readers. Miss Repplier's fame has all been won in this line of work. Her views of life have a quaint original turn that is very individual. Her works include Books and Men, Point of View, Essays in Miniature, Essays in Idleness, In the Dozy Hours and Varia. Miss Repplier is a native of the Quaker city and her last work, which is a departure from her special line of work is called Philadelphia, the Place and the People. In this book, Miss Repplier shows a thorough sympathy and appreciation of the Quaker spirit. She says "They have had scant justice done them and I am glad to fight their battles." Miss Repplier's books show a very thorough acquaintance with literature. She is given to quoting, but always in a most happy manner. It seems strange that she was very slow in learning to read. At the age of eleven she was sent with her sister to a convent near Philadelphia. Miss Repplier is a convert to the Catholic religion and her first published work was in the "Catholic World." She will soon make a visit to Italy, and people to whom her essays give much delight will anticipate some sparkling work from her new experiences.

The late Princess Kaiulani, or Miss Cleghorn as she became when the United States annexed her island kingdom, had much of the joy and sorrow, the pomp and the vanity of life crowded into her brief twenty-two years of existence. Her father A. S. Cleghorn was an Englishman who married Princess Likelike a sister of Lilliokalani then reigning Queen of the Paradise of the Pacific. The Queen had no children and as the line of Hawaiian descent is on the maternal side the niece became heir apparent to the throne. She was educated in England and possessed most of the characteristics of a high-bred English girl. She saw her royal claims set aside and from a princess became an American citizen. Much interest was aroused in her romantic story, and her sudden illness and death was much regretted in America.

Thomas Nelson Page is a typical American writer,—typical because it is one phase of this country that he shows. The South has found in him one of the most happy interpreters of "Dixie" Land. Mr. Page is a Virginian and related to half the aristocratic families of the state. One of his paternal ancestors was an intimate friend of Jefferson and on the maternal side he is descended from a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Page was a Richmond lawyer with no thought of a literary life when he was shown a letter taken from the pocket of a dead Georgia volunteer. The letter was from the man's sweetheart and stated that she would marry him if he would come home. The dramatic pathos of the situation induced Page to weave the facts into a story that he called Marse Chan. Scribner's Monthly accepted the story and gave the young writer $80 for it, accompanying the cheque with a note requesting an article on the Yorktown campaign. Thomas Nelson Page was fairly launched on a successful career as a literary man. No one has more graphically portrayed the South. Among his best known books are: Our Little Confederates, Befo' de War, On Newfound River and Pastime Stories. Mr. Page was born at Oakland, Hanover County, Virginia, on April 25, 1853. He is a graduate of the school Jefferson founded—The University of Virginia.

Manuel Asprios the new Mexican ambassador to the United States is exceedingly well qualified for his position. He speaks English fluently and has a wide knowledge of books, men and affairs. He is a recognized authority on international law and has published many books upon the subject. One of these, "Rights and Duties of Foreigners" is widely known. He has been a Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of Mexico. He was born at Pueblo on July 9, 1836. He began the study of law but when the French seized Mexico he took an active part in the war. He was prosecutor in the court that condemned the unfortunate Emperor Maximillian to death. He became connected with the Mexican department of foreign relations in 1867. In 1872 he visited Washington as agent for the Mixed Claim Commission and the following year he was appointed Consul at San Francisco. He has been a member of the Mexican senate and was Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs when he was appointed as ambassador. He succeeds the late Senor Romero who with his charming American wife was so long and favorably known in Washington.



Mrs. Alice Meynell's name is not widely known in the generally accepted meaning of the term. In the inner circle of the literary world she is ranked as the foremost woman essayist and critic of the world. She has published little but as one English critic says "It is in her shortness that her genius appears." Mrs. Meynell's first published work was in 1875. Alice Thompson was an unknown writer and the modest volume of poems attracted little attention. At the time it was published Miss Thompson was living in Italy where she was educated by her father. Her essay "A Remembrance" pays a touching tribute to England where she became a frequent contributor to the periodicals. One of these "Merry England" was edited by Mr. Wilfred Meynell. The editor and his contributor were married and their home in Kensington soon became a literary center. John Ruskin says that some of Mrs. Meynell's poems are the finest things he has seen or felt in modern verse. Rossetti knew her sonnet "Renouncement" by heart and said that it was one of the three finest sonnets ever written by a woman. Three short books: The Rhythm of Life, The Colors of Life, and The Children constitute all of Mrs. Meynell's published work. Her genius is of the subtile and refined quality that escapes the attention of the masses but commands the unqualified praise of the most severely critical. To be a writer for writers is the distinction that Alice Meynell has attained.



Donna Amelia of Portugal is said to be the most beautiful Queen in Europe. She is accomplished as she is beautiful. The Queen of Portugal is a daughter of the late Comte de Paris. By a strange coincidence she was born on September twenty-eighth the birthday of her husband Don Carlos. The Queen is two years younger than her husband. Donna Amelia has other distinctions besides queenship and beauty. She holds a much coveted medal for saving life. She rescued two children from drowning in the Tagus. The Queen is an expert and fearless swimmer. She spends much time at Cascaes which is the seaside resort of Portugal. Here she may be seen, swimming far out where few dare follow her. She is usually attended by a cutter manned by blue jackets. She rides in the same fearless manner. Her expeditions used to take her "cross country" through the hilly, rough land surrounding Lisbon. Her court followed reluctantly but etiquette demanded that they attend where the Queen led. Donna Amelia is an earnest student, interested in deep theological questions and in medicine. She has passed the examinations in medicine before the faculty at Lisbon. She once attended a woodcutter who had received an injury. He deplored the fact that he could not pay his doctor but promised to bring some butter and eggs if she would leave her address. When he found that his physician was his Queen the house of Braganza gained one more faithful adherent.



E. T. Hooley, once millionaire, now is one of the most dramatic figures in the world of finance. His downfall stirred English society to its depths. Half the nobility of England trembled over the disclosures Hooley made. He calmly told of the thousands spent by him in bribing prominent men to give the use of their names as directors in the many schemes by which he made his millions. Hooley is not yet forty years of age. In an interview in the height of his prosperity he declared that he was never worried over any of the vast financial schemes that he was then undertaking. He succeeded by use of his wealth and his force of character in compelling some social recognition in England. He was a "promoter" and all of his schemes seemed to yield showers of gold until the crash came. He presented a gold service to St. Paul's; he proposed to devote the income of two million dollars to charity as a means of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. At that time he declared that his only bother was how to spend his money properly. In his plan for charity he had fully outlined an old age pension scheme that had many admirable and practical features. Hooley left school when he was thirteen and while he attended school was obliged to walk eight miles a day. During the time that he was recognized as the Prince of Promoters, he worked from eight in the morning until ten at night and kept three secretaries constantly busy. He claimed to be the biggest sheep breeder in England. Farming was his hobby although he aspired to a seat in Parliament. He made money through the confidence which he inspired in people rather than through any real financial ability. He has a fertile and ingenious mind and it is doubtful if even his reverses will prevent him from coming again to the front.

Edwin Pugh is a young writer—young both in years and fame. He has grasped recognition in the face of very adverse circumstances. When but a child his father died and he as the eldest of a large family became the bread-winner. For fourteen hours a day he worked in an iron foundry but under these conditions and when but twelve years of age he sold his first story. He found a sale also for all the stories, poems and articles that he found time to write. At last he was able to feel that his pen could become his means of livelihood. The Man of Strow, King Circumstance and Tony Drum made his name known to the readers of England and America. His last book in which he collaborated with Mr. Charles Gleig is called The Rogues' Paradise. Mr. Pugh can feel that he has conquered fate in his struggle for recognition.

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3 lb Coffee	.90	½ pt. Extract Lemon	.30
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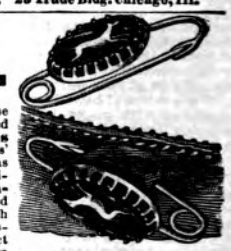
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JUNE 1899

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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON.

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A JUNE DAY.

And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;
Then heaven tries the earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays;
Whether we look or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten;
Every clod feels a stir of might,
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,
And, groping blindly above it for light,
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers;
The flush of life may well be seen
Thrilling back over hills and valleys;
The cowslip startles in meadows green,
The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice;
And there's never a leaf or a blade too mean
To be some happy creature's palace;
The little bird sits at his door in the sun,
Atilt like a blossom among the leaves,
And lets his illumined being o'errun
With the deluge of summer it receives;
His mate feels the eggs beneath her wings,
And the heart in her dumb breast flutters and sings;
He sings to the wide world, and she to her nest—
In the nice ear of Nature, which song is the best?

— JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR JUNE.

Sam P. Davis, First Prize.
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THE TENDERFOOT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SAM P. DAVIS.

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IT WAS plain to the most casual observer that the gentleman who arrived at the Western Hotel, Tombstone, Arizona, was a tenderfoot. His air, his walk and his attire all proclaimed the manner of the man.

The loungers about the bar room sized him up as he registered his name and each of these keen observers of character mentally reached the conclusion that he was just the sort of a man that somebody was certain to have some fun with before night.

There was indeed much in his makeup which was calculated to give offence to the more settled population of Tombstone. He wore clothes of a fashionable cut, flaunted tidy shoes in the face of the community and offered no apologies for a shirt as outrageously clean as had ever reared its affronting presence in the town.

"He'll be wearing a plug hat by to-morrow," was the observation of Lumpy Jaw Pete, who was getting nervous as he contemplated the stranger's exasperating bearing, and when the latter had asked to be shown his room without inviting the gathering to treat, it was clear to everybody that here was a case in which it was fairly becoming to the better element to assert the dignity and traditions of Tombstone.

"When he comes downstairs agin," said Pete, "I'll see that he does some dancin' for the amoosement of the crowd."

The crowd, in anticipation of this amusement, remained to see the sort of Terpsichorean exercise the stranger might be induced to favor them with, under the stimulus of Pete's persuasive six shooter. The fact that Pete contemplated amusing himself with the new arrival soon advertised itself and there was a general movement toward the Western Hotel.

"I suppose the fellar's a washin' up," remarked Pete, anxious to frame some reasonable excuse for the familiarity he was about to indulge in with the eastern gentleman.

As he spoke the stranger once more stepped into the room and, without noticing the crowd drew a chair to the stove, and taking a cigar case from his pocket drew forth a weed, and before the crowd could recover, produced a silver match case. Slipping a match from the case he was about to bite the end of the cigar when there came the sharp crack of Pete's pistol.

The match, held an instant in view between Pete and the stove, was too tempting a mark to overlook and he had essayed to demolish it with his bullet, but just as he had touched the trigger it had been lowered a trifle and the shot, grazing the brimstone, ignited it. The ball flattened itself against the stove. As the match flamed up the stranger, without looking round, held the cigar in the place so lately occupied by the match and remarked:

"Thanks awfully. Please take another shot at the tip of this cigar and then have a smoke with me."

It would hardly be the thing to refuse a banter like that and Pete removed the tip of the weed with a second bullet; then it seemed to dawn upon him that he was not exactly having any very considerable amount of fun with the stranger. The man lit his cigar with the match that Pete had so unwittingly ignited and Pete concluded it was time to assert himself or forever acknowledge that he had been downed by a tenderfoot who might for all he knew hail from as far back east as Boston.

"What might your business be stranger?" he inquired, holding the gun toward him in a grossly familiar way.

"It might be yours, but possibly it isn't," was the reply as the man from the east continued filling the air with smoke.

It was now clear to Pete that he had received provocation sufficient to excuse him if he opened actual hostilities.

"Do you ever dance?"

"In my younger days I was considered a fair waltzer but late years I have regarded the accomplishment as one of the ridiculous follies of my youth."

"Wal, stranger, I've concluded to invite you to renew the follies of your younger days and if yer don't git out on the sawdust here and give the company a jig I'll begin a blowin' of yer feet off. So hop in now and make the deal lively and get to work quick."

"So you say the penalty of non-compliance with your request will be the loss of both feet."

"You've got it sized up about right and I'm glad to see that you catch on without too much explaining my game. Now you understand the prop, git up and perform."

The Easterner's left leg was thrown carelessly across his knee and his foot was between Pete and the stove, an easy mark as every one could see, with the stove in the background to take the bullet.

"Would you like to wager something on your marksmanship?" he said, quietly, as he took a wallet from his pocket.

Pete glanced at the wallet and shifted his hand toward his weapon which for a few moments had been back in his belt.

"I will lay a hundred even that you cannot make me move my foot from the place where it now is. A hundred a shot and for each shot you have left. You have four remaining shots and that makes four hundred dollars and the distance is but about eight feet I should say. Come my good man don't hesitate, you certainly ought not to miss a mark like that. It seems to me like picking money up. If you lose I will then take some shots at your feet on the same terms, but of course I want my turn—after you of course—that is, if you lose I will give you a chance to get your money back. But if you win and possibly you may, then I will not ask for a return match. They do say that I am a dead game sport where I live and if I lose my money no one ever hears a whimper after that. Here, let the landlord hold the stakes," and as he spoke he shoved $400 in crisp bills into the landlord's hands.

"It do for shore look like a fair prop, Pete," said Borax Bill. "He don't git nary a shot at you unless yer miss. It looks to me like gittin' into the Tombstone Bank safe and the cashier drunk."

"I'll see yer four hundred and raise it to a thousand," said Pete, drawing out his wallet.

The stranger immediately produced another roll of bills and said carelessly:

"Would you mind going a little higher?"

Pete had gone to the foot of his wallet and couldn't "come again." It chagrined him to realize that he was unable to meet the raise of a tenderfoot but he had to stand it.

"Possibly some other of you gentlemen would like to realize a little money on this transaction," continued the tenderfoot as he waved a handful of bills about the circle.

"Is the bet that Pete can't make you take your foot down in four shots?"

"That is my understanding of it, sir."

In an instant several wallets were in evidence and it did not take long to get a couple of thousand dollars more up as stakes. It was promptly covered by the imperturbable tenderfoot and when there was no more money forthcoming he poised his foot in front of the stove and asked Pete if he was ready.

Pete responded to the query by lifting his weapon, and faster than one could count the shots he sent four bullets crashing through the stranger's foot. The latter merely puffed his cigar and the foot never so much as moved an inch.

There was a silence over all the crowd as the man sat there with his foot rent by the bullets, but his nerve never weakened and there was no change of countenance to tell of the horrible pain that must have racked him.

"Gentlemen, do I win or lose?"

"You win," came from all in one breath, and at this the landlord handed the money over.

"I believe it is my turn now," said the stranger, rising and covering Pete's foot with a six-shooter. The latter turned pale and edged away.

"You can't shirk it, Pete," came from several at once, and they laid hands on him and forced him to face the stranger. "You lamed a boy here years ago and this 'll even it up."

"That boy was my son," continued the tenderfoot, and a moment later he sent a bullet through Pete's instep and the man was dragged away howling with agony.

"Do you need any doctor for your foot?" they asked as they crowded about the man who now had $3000 of Tombstone money safe in his wallet.

"It's hardly the kind of a foot that needs an M. D. I'll fix up a new one when I get upstairs. I always carry a couple of extra ones when I travel in the West. If you need any legs or feet while I am in Tombstone give me a call."

The tenderfoot laid down his card and skipped lightly upstairs. It read:

Artificial Limbs and Feet. Vulcanized Rubber Feet a Specialty. Have worn one for four years. Call and see it. SILAS SKINNER, Boston, Mass.

It was many moons before Lumpy Jaw Pete again proposed to make fun for the crowd at the expense of a so-called "tenderfoot."

A TREATMENT FOR COLOR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

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Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the Leopard his spots?—Jeremiah.



CAMDEN Heard added M. D. to his name—at his father's expense—and a prodigal growth of unkempt beard to his face. After graduation, and a year of hospital work, he returned to his native town, put out his sign, and inquired concernedly as to the state of the public health. His old friends and neighbors listened with commendable patience while he expounded unto them anatomy from *parietal* to *hullux;* but, though he charged madly through the street at all hours of the day and night, medicine-chest in hand, no one was ever inspired with any confidence in his ability to successfully combat the various ills that assail the flesh. They had known him as a boy; and a prophet—or other professional man—is not without honor save in his own country.

It took some time for the true situation to dawn upon Heard. But he came to realize that he was playing a losing game, for Fate threw loaded dice. Pride prevented an immediate surrender, but at the expiration of one year he went South for his health.

Attracted by a sweeping reduction in rates, Heard joined a "home-seekers" excursion that had Georgia as its ultimate destination. The particular spot to which they journeyed was canon-typed as the land flowing with milk and honey, where man could fare sumptuously every day on Nature's bounty, leaving the morrow to care for itself.

One evening, in company with ten land-boomers and three victimized investors, Dr. Camden Heard stepped from the train at La Grange. It was a step that he regretted at once, and many times thereafter. The sudden transition from the rush and roar of the rail to the complete coma of La Grange was depressing. He remarked something to this effect.

"It's not dead," one of the boomers hastened to assure him. "Not dead but sleeping. Wait till we get the two peach-canneries, and the cotton-spinners, and the creamery, and the cotton-seed oil factories, and—just wait."

From force of circumstances Heard was compelled to wait. Fortunately for him, two of the victimized investors had cramp colic the day following their arrival—due, perhaps, to the richness of the milk and honey. This gave the new doctor an opportunity to demonstrate his ability.

It is needless to enumerate the various patients—mostly blacks—that sought the aid of Dr. Heard while he was endeavoring to make himself a fixture in the place. He was able to live without calling for any paternal assistance, and that was something to be thankful for, notwithstanding the fact that the arrogant whites resented his presence as an intrusion.

After one of his busiest days, Heard was about to close up his office when a tall, good-featured negro entered.

"Well, Collat," said the doctor, "what can I do for you? I'm bound to say you don't look like a man in need of quinine or calomel."

"I am not, sir," the negro answered. "I doubt if you have any drugs that will help my case."

"Let's hear the worst," said the doctor, encouragingly. "I'll guarantee to help you."

For a moment the negro's face lighted with hope.

"You know something of my situation," he said.

"Yes," Heard replied lightly; "you are the richest colored man in the South; you drive the fastest horses in Georgia; you have education, refinement—all the advantages that anyone could ask for."

"What you say is true," Collat answered. "God has seen fit to bless and prosper me far beyond anything that I deserve; but He has withheld the one thing that I most desire. Doctor, my life is a living hell. Better never to have been born, than to have been born a black! Perhaps brooding over the matter has unsettled my mind—I do not know; but I have dreamed that you could help me, and I still cling to the superstitious beliefs of my race—it is a part of me. Tell me this, sir, is there anything in the world that will make me white—if only for a day? Everything that I possess shall be yours if you can accomplish it."

The negro had worked himself up into a kind of frenzy, and he paced the office with clinched hands and heaving chest. Heard felt inclined to laugh, but seeing the condition of the man, he deemed it wise to humor him.

"I'm sure, Collat," he replied, "I never learned of any treatment that would make black white. However, I will give the subject some thought, and perhaps we might try some experiments. Come back in a week."

From considering the matter in the light of a joke, Heard came to the point of earnest investigation. He made a thorough study of every bleaching agent known to science. And then, not satisfied with his own researches, he consulted a score of eminent chemists, withholding from them, of course, the real object that he wished to accomplish. The greatest obstacle in the way of success was the tenderness of the human skin. It seemed impossible to obtain satisfactory results without burning and blistering the entire surface of the body.

When about to give up the undertaking, Heard received something like an inspiration. He remembered that at college the negro subjects for dissection, when kept for any time in the brine tank, turned a grayish white. If the bath could be made to work more rapidly on a living subject, the problem would be solved.

While these investigations were going on, Collat had never let a day pass without seeing the doctor. And when Heard at last announced that there was a reasonable hope of success, the negro was almost wild with joy.

"Well, Collat," Heard said one evening, "I think the time has about come to give it a trial. Are you ready for it?"

The negro's agitation was so great that he could not form the words of a reply, but he followed the doctor to the bathroom and gazed with rolling eyes at the milky solution in the tub. Under Heard's direction he removed his clothing, placed two little rubber plugs and tubes in his nostrils, then submerged himself in the liquid.

Thirty minutes later the doctor rapped on the side of the tub and Collat sprang out. Scarcely had his feet touched the floor when he screamed with pain and clapped his hand over his eyes.

"Why don't you speak?" he cried. "Tell me man, am I white? This stuff has gotten into my eyes and I can't see. I'll kill you if I'm still a black!"

"You're still a nigger," Heard replied with a sneer, "but your skin is whiter than mine."

"Thank God!" Collat shouted, sinking down on his knees and beating his breast. "Thank God!"

"Better thank me," said the doctor. "The

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Almighty made you a negro. I made you white. Now, Collat," he continned in a business-like tone, "let's have a clear understanding about this transaction. You offered me everything you possessed if I could accomplish this change. That was a little effusive. What do you propose paying me?"

But Collat was in no condition of mind to talk rationally. It was all Heard could do to get him dressed and started on his way home.

For a period of six months Collat was lost sight of—not the black one alone, but likewise the white one. At the end of that time he returned, all white but the backs of his hands. Heard refused to have anything to do with him.

"I never allow the same man to make a fool of me twice," the doctor told him.

"But I'm turning black again," Collat pleaded.

"You'll stay that way, as far as I'm concerned," Heard replied. "The first treatment has proved a whitewash all around."

"I forgot what a debt of gratitude I owed you," persisted Collat. "I was so overjoyed that my brain was turned. If you will just treat me now I will double the amount of your charge."

"Twice nothing," murmured the doctor.

A few days later Collat returned with a small hand-bag. It contained about ten thousand dollars in bills.

"It's all the cash I could raise on short notice," he said. "I want you to take it all and make me white once more. See here!—there are great brown patches all over my neck and arms."

Heard refused the money and ordered the unfortunate man away from his office.

"I really don't think it's safe to have a nigger masquerading under a white man's skin," he said. "There's too much animal in them."

"Have you no pity or compassion?" pleaded Collat. "Merciful Heaven, man! I have married a white wife. Only think of my situation!"

Heard laughed until the tears stood in his eyes. "That's the nigger of it," he observed.

"Then," cried Collat, "if you won't help me, I'll mix up the brine bath myself."

"You are a fool," Heard retorted. "Do you suppose that it took nothing but salt to work that metamorphosis?"

Collat slunk away with sullen threats of revenge.

"Revenge," mused the doctor, "what revenge could equal mine! At any rate I have done the right thing by the white woman he deceived."

Meanwhile the woman in question had been visiting friends in La Grange. Heard of course failed to connect Mrs. Jean Attro with the wife *of Collat. One* evening as Mrs. Attro was passing along a dark street, a burly negro caught her in his arms and kissed her.

"Vara!" he cried, "you must not be afraid of me. I'm turning black.—Don't you know me—my voice?—I'm Jean. For God's sake don't send me away!—I love you so."

The frantic screams of a woman quickly roused the town. A crowd of men were soon running in the direction of the outcry. They found the negro with the woman still clasped in his arms.

"She's mine, I tell you!" the negro cried.

Then he was grappled from behind and violently thrown to the ground.

"Collat!—it's Collat!" the crowd shouted.

"Keep quiet, boys," said the man who was holding Collat down by the throat. "Take the woman away and we'll soon do for this black brute."

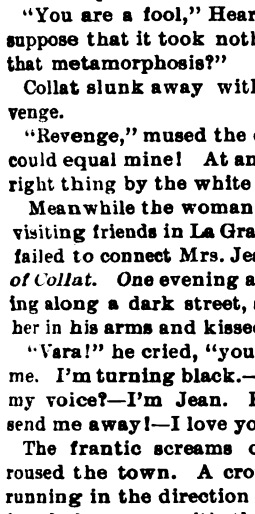
Toward morning the crowd pushed out over the low red hills and far into the country. In their midst Collat struggled wildly. His prayers and curses could be heard long after the men had disappeared through the first fringe of pines. The next day the papers of the country chronicled another lynching in Georgia.

It is said that Dr. Camden Heard did everything in his power to save the life of the negro. He even went so far as to claim that Collat really was the husband of Mrs. Attro. That is why he had to leave the State on short notice.

AUNT DEBBY'S WHALE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BRADLEY GILMAN.

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COMPETITION for boarders was very close, that summer, at Brant Bay. The Hotel at the Point, was of course always full; its "orchestra," (a flute cornet and piano) lifted it to the level of easy superiority; but among the boarding-houses, competition was intense and open. When the "Smith Cottage" bought a new croquet-set, the "Jones Villa" added some large red armchairs to its piazza; when the "Mariner's Rest" put on a free carriage to and from the railway station the "Bellevue Inn" erected two new bath-houses, "for guests only." At the "Sunset Pavilion," where Aunt Debby presided, the attractions were the "home cooking," and a "boiling spring," behind the house, said (by Aunt Debby), to contain minerals of great curative power.

In addition to these attractive features, Aunt Debby's husband, "Captain L'ander," might be mentioned; he had some local fame, among the young people, as a skilled fisherman; and, among their mammas—as a cautious skipper. You could always find Captain L'ander, when he was not away on his boat, by following the house until you came to the shed; there in the doorway he commonly sat, his long, lank form doubled up on a three-legged stool, a huge brown calico apron tied about his waist, a corn-cob pipe in mouth, and a pan of peas, or some potatoes, in his lap. There the casual visitor might be allowed to see him, but briefly, and for business purposes only. Five minutes was considered by vigilant Aunt Debby long enough to arrange about tide, bait, and the price of the Captain's cat-boat; if you lingered beyond this limit, her small wiry form appeared at the kitchen door, and her shrill voice summoned the Captain to feed the chickens, or split some firewood, or run to the store on an "errant."

Aunt Debby did not spare herself, any more than her meek, patient husband. She cooked, and made beds, and "did all her own work." The Captain had rarely appeared inside the house since that unhappy morning when he walked absent-mindedly into the front room, among the boarders, barefooted, and with "gallusers" dangling at his heels. Thenceforth he occupied the shed, and had a bunk in the loft.

Despite her hardworking sixty years, Aunt Debby's alert eyes and ears kept her informed upon all the affairs of the Bay. She knew how many rooms remained empty in every house, why the family from Philadelphia had left the Seaside Inn, what price the rich patent-medicine proprietor paid at the "Wanderer's Retreat," and how to work over the roast of one day into a delicious stew for the day following.

Competition, however, was close, and although the "Sunset Pavilion" had its fair share of patronage, Aunt Debby strained every nerve, in order, as she plaintively put it—"to make both ends meet."

Competition never had been so severe as this summer; but Aunt Debby was devout, and, in her way, trusted in Providence, next to trusting in her own vigorous self; so that when a whale washed ashore, one stormy night, close by the bridge near the Pavilion, she felt that it had been providentially sent to her very door, as a counter-attraction to the Bowling Alley recently erected at the Mariner's Rest, just across the Bay.

There was great excitement over the huge dead monster. Aunt Debby's prescient eye instantly saw in it a rare means of income. She presently directed the "Capt'n" to make it fast by a hawser to one of the piers of the bridge; then she dispatched him to the village for a carpenter and lumber; and, by high-noon of that day, the leviathan was surrounded by a board-fence, and the captain was seated at the entrance, taking fifteen cents from every curious person who "wanted to see the whale."

Of course everybody came to gaze at the novel sight; boarders from all the other houses, school-children and parents from the neighboring towns, and even opulent guests from the hotel at the Point, asking, carelessly, to have ten—and even twenty-dollar bills changed; (and, after the first few hours, Capt'n L'ander could easily change them.)

Aunt Debby's pulse beat rapidly, but, outwardly she gave no sign of excitement; her thin, nervous lips twitched slightly, and she rattled the dishes in the kitchen a bit more than usual; few persons could have detected the high exultation of ownership which filled her soul; yet, underneath all, the good woman's fundamental principles and sympathies remained unbroken; for, when one of the shiftless families from the village came over, hoping to catch some glimpse of the now famous monster, Aunt Debby let them all go in, father, mother, eight children and two dogs, without charge.

The Captain's pockets bulged out with copper and silver coins; and, for his part, he would have been satisfied to "let well enough alone:" but when Aunt Debby saw the exciting "story" of the whale, in the local newspaper, and took note of the eager crowd coming from the railroad station, she went through some violent internal commotion, and ordered the Capt'n to climb up to the sprawling sign over the entrance, "Admission 15 cents," and change the figure "1" to "2."

Not the least part of Aunt Debby's joy was in her turgid sense of victory; she loved money, but she loved success and power more; yet even in this very flush of her towering supremacy over her rivals, her warm heart asserted itself, and she sent word to every proprietor around the Bay to come and see the whale on her invitation, without charge.

Two days passed, and the crowds grew more dense. Three days passed, three hot August days, and the crowd was just as large, the eagerness to enter was quite as great, but—people came out rather hurriedly, and with a certain peculiar appearance of relief. That evening, Capt'n L'ander's brown, wrinkled face wore a troubled expression. He cautiously beckoned his wiry, bespectacled little helpmeet out to the shed, carefully closed the door, and confided to her his fears that "the critter was a-sp'ilin'."

"Nonsense!" exclaimed Aunt Debby. "No sich thing!" And she marched straight out through the darkness, to the enclosure, sniffed and sniffed again, and could smell nothing; not she.

Capt'n L'ander had followed her, with a dejected air; and when his energetic wife exclaimed, with conviction, that she could not detect the slightest smell, he meekly assented, and stammered that he "guessed that he was mistaken."

The next day the rays of the sun poured down as fervidly as ever; and, although the Captain tried his best to ignore the fact, the universal testimony of the crowd of plain-speaking visitors corroborated the testimony of his own nose, and he was silent and thoughtful.

Late in the afternoon Aunt Debby came out, and inspected her prize. She apparently took no notice of the protective actions of the people about her, and the Captain said nothing. That evening, however, she ordered her husband to "dress the whale;" and the "dressing" process was carried out; with knife and spade and hoe the offending viscera of the whale were removed, and were carried away by wheelbarrow loads, and dumped at low water mark on the marsh.

Another morning dawned, and the crowds still flocked to see the monster; receipts were large, but the Captain seemed more and more depressed. Aunt Debby, however, carried an air of resolute cheerfulness, and her husband held no conversation with her. She clattered the dishes more than ever, and none of her boarders seemed inclined to mention the whale in her presence. Among themselves, and even with the Captain, they talked freely of the objectionable odor which was daily growing stronger, and was causing much sharp comment among the other boarding-houses. That afternoon the attendance decreased greatly. The few people who went inside the enclosure, came out with hands over noses, with much coughing and with very wry faces.

During the afternoon Aunt Debby went up to town, and returned with several bulky packages. Early the next morning, she and the Captain were seen to be busily engaged in mixing various liquids in a barrel and some pails; and a strong odor of cheap perfume permeated the neighborhood, and struggled hopelessly with the odor of the defunct leviathan. Captain Leander was seen to go into the enclosure, with a garden-pump, and pail after pail of a lemon-colored fluid. When the earliest spectators arrived they discovered the Captain spraying the great creature, as if it had been a plumtree or a grapevine; and the powerful odor of perfume and decaying tissue was penetrating, but unpleasant, in the extreme.

The local newspaper, that day, contained several playful allusions to the "new guest," at the Bay; and, in an obscure corner of the editorial page, could be read an enigmatic paragraph, a brief leader, on "the strength of whales," as compared with other animals. Aunt Debby rarely wasted time on newspapers; but Captain L'ander read it all, and grew more depressed.

That noon, after dinner, the boarders at the "Pavilion," Aunt Debby's house—held a secret indignation meeting; and three of them gave notice that they were going away the next morning. Through it all, scowls, sniffs, laughter, and ill-concealed jokes, Aunt Debby's utter ignorance of her boarders' and neighbors' feelings was remarkable. Her piercing gray eyes seemed to see nothing wrong; and that sharp thin nose, so keen to detect odors of burning in the kitchen, was strangely dull to the rank, oppressive odor, which brooded over all the neighborhood like a malignant mist.

Aunt Debby always clung tenaciously to an idea, when once she had given it hospitality; up to the present moment her idea, her conviction, her determined will was—that the whale was wholly unobjectionable and harmless. But when the Board of Health appeared, as they did, that evening, she could no longer refuse to recognize the ugly facts in the case. She sat stiffly on the edge of her chair, as they timidly and awkwardly made known to her, that the case was a desperate one and must be met promptly with some sort of remedy. What that remedy should be, they did not suggest; but they intimated that the whale was hers and that she must dispose of it at once, or the law against public nuisances would be enforced.

The whale certainly was hers; hers and the Captain's; he was their property; the whole of him; his body indeed, was on their land only; but his presence was felt, or sensed, so to speak, along the entire shore. They must certainly do something to quiet the popular indignation.

Anybody except Aunt Debby would have given over the struggle at once, and sought means of disposing of the objectionable monster; but that energetic person asked tartly for a delay of twenty-four hours in the proceedings of the Board; and it was with great reluctance granted her.

She at once gathered materials, and promptly set about "pickling" the creature as she had many a time successfully pickled pork and beef; she prepared barrels of strong salt brine; and Captain Leander—much suffering martyr—was ordered to cut openings in the creature and fill him with the preserving fluid.

In vain, in vain! Nature could not be baulked, even by the resolute little woman in spectacles; and the nauseous odor, which permeated the neighborhood, became so heavy and oppressive that even Aunt Debby herself admitted—to her husband only—"that the critter did smell ruther strong."

Matters were growing more and more desperate. It was generally believed that the Captain and his wife were about at their wit's end. Their boarders had all departed, except one infirm old lady whose sight and hearing—and, presumably her sense of smell—were much impaired, and a college boy, who had exceeded his allowance, and had no money to settle his bill and buy a railroad ticket. The Captain's air of depression had increased to an anxious and almost alarming degree; but his wife's under jaw gripped her upper one more firmly than ever, as she grimly tried one expedient after another, to rid herself of her obnoxious property.

The fame of the whale had now spread far and wide. Boston newspapers referred to it sarcastically, and letters of inquiry and suggestion came to the Pavilion, in every mail.

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The Board of Health met twice, and discussed the matter thoroughly; but while they agreed as to the flagrancy of the nuisance, they could offer no definite advice as to its abatement.

Captain Leander began to receive insulting, threatening letters; and he was now so despondent and distracted that he stayed close in the house; or, rather in the shed. Aunt Debby several times counted over the money received from admissions—one hundred and eighty-eight dollars and seventy-five cents—and grimly balanced it against the loss of boarders.

Finally Captain Leander broke down. The over-worked and much harrassed man walked despairingly into the front parlor, sat himself down in the best new rocking-chair and silently wept.

The sight of her husband's break-down moved Aunt Debby more than could the anger of her neighbors, or the threats of the Board of Health. She was deeply stirred, but even now her stern, repressed Puritan nature found no vent in useless weeping and lamentation. Instead, she projected a bold plan of escape; she remembered a married niece in the West, and she summoned her demoralized husband to assist her, at once, in packing up, announcing to him definitely that they would leave the Bay by the early morning train, while yet the town was asleep, and would accept the oft-repeated invitation to visit this niece.

This avenue of escape encouraged poor Captain Leander considerably, and the two worked with hopeful determination far into the night, packing trunks with their valuables and nailing up boxes to leave behind them.

No chance visitor or caller happened in to disturb their plan. Indeed, the whale was a sufficient guard against such intrusion; besides, a heavy storm was brewing. By midnight, when the two exhausted old people threw themselves down for a brief rest, the rain was beating fiercely against the house and the wind was blowing heavily from the southwest.

Early the next morning they arose and dressed themselves. The Captain moved about mechanically, as if in a dreadful dream. He obeyed Aunt Debby as though he had been a child. The excitement and anxiety of the past few days had been almost more than he could bear. His eyes were red and moist, and he passed his coat-sleeve over them frequently. As for Aunt Debby, she maintained a stoical demeanor, but her voice had a tenderer note in it, as she gave orders to the Captain, than he had observed for many a year. It was a dreadful revolution for them both, and only necessity could have driven them to it. However, it seemed to them both the only course open, to flee from the public wrath and leave the Board of Health to do as they pleased with the whale, and then to return, after the summer was over and the boarders gone.

A pitiable pair of aged fugitives they were as they issued stealthily from the rear door, in the gray dawn, and the Captain piled up the hand-cart with trunks and bundles. Presently all was ready; Aunt Debby locked the door and put the key defiantly into her pocket, and the two started for the station.

The rain had ceased and the wind had shifted to the northwest. As they came out into the road, the Captain glanced, from force of habit, over toward the bridge and toward the whale.

The handle of the cart dropped from his nerveless fingers, and two trunks rolled out upon the ground. But the Captain heeded them not. He stood speechless, at first with wonder and then with delight, as he gradually mastered the plain fact that the whale, that huge laboratory of evil odors, that immovable, indestructible monster which had defied all his efforts, well,—it was gone!

"Gone! It's gone!" he exclaimed, in hoarse delight; and excitedly tried to embrace Aunt Debby then and there.

That excellent woman repulsed him with severity; then she showed an amount of emotion greater than at any time for thirty years. As she pushed her excited husband away her hand lingered a moment on his shoulder, almost with a caress, and she ejaculated:

"Wal, you pore tired critter! You're kinder shook up. Now let's go back into the house."

Back they went. They had seen at once how the high wind and a full-moon tide had combined to lift the body of the whale from its resting-place, and the shifting wind had blown it far out upon the bay, far from the sight of human eyes, far from the scent of human nostrils.

One reference, and one only, Aunt Debby made to the whale, as they hurriedly unpacked trunks and boxes.

"L'ander," she observed, reflectively, "I'm sorry you left them sticks of dynamite inside of him. It's such a waste!"

THE HAND ON THE PANE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY W. BERT FOSTER.

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LEANED forward and closely examined the window pane behind Jennison's chair. Something on the glass had attracted my wandering attention as I sat there idly drumming upon the chair arms and waiting for Jennison to return. It was the print of a hand—a small, slender hand—upon the otherwise clear window pane. It looked as though the warm flesh had but just been removed from contact with it. I passed my hand over the mark. It was not ground into the glass, for I could feel no roughness; yet it was indelible.

Jennison, coming back to his private office just then, saw what I was about. He uttered a little exclamation and quickly fitting a thin board over the pane, snapped the spring which held it in place. Evidently the pane, which was directly behind the chair in which he usually sat, was seldom uncovered.

I glanced up interrogatively. His usually ruddy, jolly face had lost its color and was preternaturally grave. I was too much astonished to allow the incident to pass without comment.

"What is it, Jennison?" I asked.

"Nothing—it's nothing at all," he said, hastily.

"Nonsense! What is that mark?"

"The mark?" he repeated, vaguely.

"Yes, on the window pane? Who did it and how was it done?"

"So—so *you* see it, too, do you?" he asked, hesitatingly.

"I see it, too!" I repeated, in amazement. "Why shouldn't I? Think I'm blind?"

"No, that's not it," he returned, slowly. "But it's—well, it's of no consequence, it really isn't."

"Come, old man," I said. "Out with it. What's the mystery?"

He wet his lips (and I'm hanged if they weren't pale) before replying.

"Why are you so sure there is a mystery?" he demanded. Then he added hastily: "I—I—well, of course, my boy, there is something strange about it. You say you saw a mark on the glass. What was it?"

"Ah, now you are getting down to facts," I said. "I saw the imprint of a hand—a woman's hand, I should say."

"So you *did* see it?" he repeated. "Yes, it's a woman's hand."

"Who put it there? Surely it isn't a chance imperfection in the glass. It is a perfect impression (or so I thought) of a very beautiful hand."

"Rogers," he said, slowly, "I had much rather not tell you. But if you insist—. Do you remember the Sterlings, of Worcester?"

"Colonel Abram Sterling? yes, I remember him," said I. "Let's see, wasn't his wife a Mason—daughter or niece of Judge Ellery Mason?"

"Niece. But she died twenty odd years ago—just after her daughter was born. The old colonel himself has been in his grave a decade."

"What became of the children—there was a boy and a girl, wasn't there? But pardon me for interrupting——"

"That's all right," said Jennison. "It's about the children I have to tell. They were left parentless, as I say, more than ten years ago. The colonel had watched over them as tenderly as a mother and they were indeed desolate. It was the worse for the boy, for he was a wild, harum-scarum lad of fourteen. The girl was eleven and one of the sweetest characters I ever met."

"If she was like her mother," said I, "she could be nothing else."

"True. And she *was* like her. The same kind of a spirituelle creature. I had the honor of being the colonel's legal adviser and saw a good deal of the children both before and after his death. The property was left in my care also, while Merritt and Louise were growing up. It had been better, perhaps, had the property continued in my guardianship, for as soon as Merritt obtained control of his he began to make ducks and drakes of it. The Lord only knows where the fellow got such vicious traits: it hasn't shown out in either the Sterlings or Masons for half a dozen generations. He was the black sheep of the family.

"Louise shielded him in his boyhood when he got into scrapes and she continued to have faith in him, as they grew older. You perhaps remember the Thorndykes, who lived next to the old colonel's? Yes? well, while they were children Louise had a willing assistant in her watchcare of Merritt in Tom Thorndyke—as manly a lad as ever stepped, Rogers. Tom and Louise were sweethearts almost from their cradles, and both the Colonel and Tom's parents hoped to see the young people's liking for each other ripen into something more serious in time.

"And it did. The Thorndykes went to South America after Colonel Sterling died—Tom was sixteen, I believe, and Louise a year or so younger—and it was agreed between them that when Tom was established in business he would return for the girl. They plighted their troth when they were scarcely out of pinafores, yet they remained faithful to each other. It was the most idylic match I ever heard of.

"They corresponded—Louise and Tom—very regularly, and I believe that Tom was the only living soul to whom the loyal girl ever betrayed any doubt as to Merritt's character. She continued to gloss over her brother's sins to those who knew him, and he—the ungrateful wretch—did not even thank her. He became as well known as any man about town, a frequenter of hotel bar-rooms and gambling clubs. His affairs with women—creatures of the most abandoned character—were innumerable and it was whispered that during one of his sprees he had married a low-born singer from one of the concert halls.

"These stories of course reached the ears of the gentle little sister, but she never betrayed the pain they gave her by word or look—that is, in Merritt's presence. But I knew it wore upon her so that her health was breaking down under the strain, and I wrote to Tom Thorndyke about it. They had already agreed that he was to come on and marry her on her twenty-first birthday. It had been my suggestion, for Merritt had made a fearful mess of his own share of the property, and I could not trust Louise a day with her share of her father's estate in her absolute possession. Merritt could wheedle almost anything he wished out of her, and I was determined to secure her from his macchinations.

"Tom took my hint and one day, a few weeks after I had written, Louise came into my office with the happiest light on her face I had seen there in a long time.

"'Tom is coming North sooner than he expected, Uncle,' she said. (She had always called me 'uncle' from babyhood.) 'He may be here at almost any time. He has already started, but will probably remain a few weeks in Havana on business for his firm.'

"I showed nothing but surprise and pleasure at the idea of meeting the youngster again.

"'He'll be quite a man now,' said I, never for an instant letting on that I suspected why he was coming so early. It was yet four months to her birthday.

"'Indeed, he will,' said she, with innocent delight. 'I don't suppose we shall know him. Perhaps he will have a beard!' and she laughed. It did me good to hear her! 'You know, he's never sent me a photograph of himself since he went away.'

"And I wonder if he'll know a certain little girl, after six years,' said I, slily. 'She was in short dresses and wore her hair down her back when Master Tom went away.'

"She laughed and blushed. 'It will be quite like a fairy story, won't it?' she said.

"While we were waiting to hear from Tom, Louise and her brother were invited to New York State to join a house party for a week or ten days. Merritt was one of those fellows who never show their dissipation long at a time, and was handsome into the bargain. He was borne with, also, for his sister's sake; that was why society's doors were not closed against him.

"The house at which they visited was not far from New York City, but it was so far away from home that Louise thought none of Merritt's associates, or scandals, would follow him there. But there was one who did.

"Merritt had tired of the music hall singer and had thrown her over. The poor girl, ruined in character, unable to find employment at her old business and burdened with a three months' old child, grew desperate and followed Merritt to this country place, hoping to obtain some concessions, I suppose, by threatening to shame him before his fine friends. But Merritt Sterling was an ugly fellow when he was cornered. It stirred all the devil in him to be threatened.

"He met the girl in a lonely piece of wood some distance from his friend's house and their quarrel waxed fierce. Poor Louise came upon them unexpectedly—in time to see her brutal brother knock the unfortunate woman down and kick her. Before she could cry out, or run to beg Merritt to desist—before her presence was discovered even, by the other actors in the tragedy—a man burst through the bushes and came to the fallen creature's assistance.

"He was a young, athletic fellow, and at that moment his face was very stern indeed. 'What would you do, you dog?' he exclaimed, pushing the half-mad Merritt back from his victim. 'You will do murder yet!'

"Merritt turned upon him with the foulest language. The stranger controlled himself admirably, but kept between the wretch and the girl. Finally Sterling drew a stilletto and sprang like a tiger upon the man who had stayed his hand!

"And there, before the woman he had beaten and the sister whose presence was unsuspected, Merritt Sterling was shot down and instantly killed by his antagonist! It was self-defence—there was no other idea even suggested—but the man who had done the deed did not give himself up, nor could the police find him from the meager description given by the two horrified women.

"Louise was fairly prostrated by the awful incident. I cabled Tom Thorndyke at Havana, but it was a week before I received a reply. He replied that he had been in the interior on business and just returned to the coast, and was then taking the first steamer for New York. Of course, by the time he arrived, the funeral was over and the matter had quieted down to a great extent. There were few to mourn the death of Merritt Sterling.

"Louise got out again; but I saw that it was only the coming of Tom that kept her up. Her body and mind were both racked to the point of collapse by the terrible strain upon them. The physicians agreed with me that the best thing to do was to marry her to Tom immediately and for them to start for the South as soon as the ceremony took place. The association with people and places which reminded her of her brother's death must be broken at once.

"The day Tom was expected, she came to my office. They were to meet here—I had sent a telegram to New York for him to come directly to me on his arrival—and I knew to a minute, almost, the time he would arrive. I had planned to have an errand which would call me from the room just at the right moment, that Louise might meet him alone. She stood beside me here, one hand upon the back of my chair and gazing out of the window. I can imagine how she felt. I could do nothing myself but make a desperate bluff at reading the papers in a court case; but I did not see a line on the sheets that I rustled so industriously.

"Suddenly Louise uttered a low cry. She could not have seen Tom coming, I thought; in truth it would be past belief that she should know him after six years. Yet I sprang up to look myself. My God! the expression on the girl's face was of death. She stood as though stunned, one hand rigidly fixed upon my chair-back, the other against the window pane.

"Slowly her eyes turned from the window and sought the door of the office. I was so marvelously influenced by her manner and appearance that I could not break the spell. In a moment there was a bustle at the entrance and the door flew open.

"'Mr. Thorndyke,' said Upton's voice and the boy entered.

"'Jennison,' exclaimed he, hurrying forward, 'I remember you.' His voice was grave and his face sad and drawn. 'Where is—Louise!'

"He had seen her and his features lit up wonderfully. He stretched out his hand and approached her. 'Louise,' he said, 'do you remember me?'

"She did not look at his face. Her eyes, strangely strained and glittering, were fixed upon that outstretched hand. Her lips moved; and for an instant I did not catch the words. Then I heard her tones, hoarse, unnatural, and sounding hollow and lifeless through the room.

"'My brother's blood! My brother's blood!'

"And then ere we could catch her, she fell stiffly to the floor. She was dead when we reached her."

* * * * * *

"Great heavens, Jennison!" I cried, "do you mean that——"

"Yes, Thorndyke was the man. He had come straight on from Rio Janeiro instead of remaining at Havana. Having some business to transact for his father in and near New York, he stopped there first. Chance—Fate—whatever you care to call it—brought him to that lonely wood at the moment Merritt Sterling was beating his victim. Thorndyke was on his way to catch a train at a way station. He went on after shooting the brute who was, to him, a stranger, and took the first train South, reaching Havana again in five days. He did not fear being tried for the murder, but he feared the effect it might have upon Louise.

"She had been unobserved by him at the time, but his image was indelibly impressed upon her memory. She recognized him immediately upon his appearance at my office and the awful discovery that her brother's slayer was her lover was like the stroke of another bullet through her own heart. I have never been able to remove the mark left by her hand upon that pane."



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KATRINA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FRANK H. SWEET.

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NAMES were only a means of temporary identification at Dead Level Bar, and when a man so far forgot the place as to ornament himself with two and perhaps even three, merely because they happened to have been given or bequeathed, he was sternly thrust back to the reproach of "Soap or B'ar's Grease" or "Comb an' Brush," or something else equally appropriate and distasteful. As among the Indians, there was a custom of using anything convenient until a man had earned the right to something distinctive and honorable. That was how tenderfoot "Cub" of six months before, was veteran Pistol Bill of to-day, and why pink-faced, swearing Bobby had become Blue-Blazes.

Dead Level Bar was attractive to strangers. Pay-dirt had been struck by the first comers, and pay-dirt had been the rule ever since. Two ounces a day was a fair average for a river-bottom man, but three ounces was better. And naturally it was the river-bottom mining that set labor rates for the ponderous crushers on the hillside.

It was high—preposterous—of course; but the mine owners did not complain, for every jar of their machinery turned three figures into their pockets. A day meant a competence, a week a fortune, and a month was something that made even the wildest visions gasp for breath.

So the unskilled dago, and the Chinaman, and shirk from Alabama, and the red-headed man from Cork, alike received their two ounces a day; while a moderately skilled laborer was in demand at twice and even thrice that sum. Occasionally a man came who was thoroughly conversant with mining machinery, or with analyzing or prospecting, and he was a Croesus who could command his own rules and his own time and his own reward. And yet the miners on the hillside were always short of help. Newcomers preferred the possibility of three ounces a day to the certainty of two, and the skillful were generally visionary enough to dream of the vast wealth which every turn of their spade might disclose.

Among the arrivals one day was a blue-eyed, *flaxen-haired* German, who towered head and *shoulders* above his companions, and whose first act on alighting was to snatch a pail from the driver's seat and go in search of water for the horses.

"Dey vass t'irsty," he remarked, sententiously, as he went from one to another, watching them carefully and giving water only as he thought judicious, and not as the panting animals craved. "In de German army we our horses vass looked after."

Then he stood back and gazed about curiously, his shoulders square and his right arm bent slightly at the elbow, as though the hand were resting upon the hilt of a sword. One of the mine owners paused on the opposite sidewalk and regarded him attentively. He, too, had a habit of carrying his arm in that position; and beside there were other things about the upright, soldierly figure which carried him back to certain years of his own in the German army.

An hour later the stranger was installed as the chief engineer of the Gold Bug, with a salary of fifty dollars a day; and with the understanding that he was to have the oversight of other mines, with a corresponding increase of compensation. The blue eyes of the German had grown big with wonder at the munificence of the salary; but the mine owner's had only narrowed and brightened. *He* knew that another man with this scientific giant's acquirements would have asked a hundred, and been given it without question.

In the books he was entered as Hans, because of the clerk's inability to understand the long, unpronounceable name he gave; but down in camp he was simply Cause, while the burly teamster he one day tossed twenty-feet into the river for beating a horse, became Effect.

Mails were of uncertain arrival at Dead Level Bar. Sometimes they came twice a month; sometimes only once in two months, and sometimes the appearance of road agents prevented them from coming at all. Hans had been there six weeks before a mail came in, and then it was another week before the clerk connected the letter whose address he could not decipher, with the engineer whose name he could not pronounce.

When the letter was brought to him Hans was sitting on a boulder outside the mine, his blue eyes fixed upon a distant point of the horizon with an expression of wistfulness and regret. Five minutes later he was in the superintendent's office.

"I gif my notice," he cried, his face glowing and his blue eyes radiant. "I take de stage in twenty minutes."

"Take—what in twenty minutes? Oh, you want more salary." The superintendent threw his feet into another chair and looked at him expectantly. "Well, how much? Will fifty per cent. increase do?"

"I tell you I take de stage," Hans reiterated. "I gif my notice."

His earnestness was too evident to be mistaken, and the superintendent rose hastily to his feet.

"Come, come, Hans," he expostulated, "think better of it. We'll pay you more than anybody else."

"It is not de pay," eagerly, "you no understand. You been goot to me, and I stay mit you longer as anybody. But now I vass go home—to Katrina. You see," as a slight smile appeared on the youthful face of the superintendent, "it's like dis. Dere vass t'ings tell about me, and Katrina hear dem, and she say to me 'Go!' Den I hear anodder man vass seek her, and I come to America to forget. But no, dere vass no place to forget. When I come to de mountains I see Katrina everywhere, and I hear her voice mit de trees and when I dream. Now dis," holding the letter up and regarding it fondly, "tells me dat Katrina is waiting, and it say de lies mit me are all discover and dat de odder man is punish."

"I am glad to hear it, Hans," said the superintendent heartily, "but still I think you ought to remain with us. Why, just think of it, man; six months of this work and you can go back and build a castle for Katrina."

But Hans raised himself to his full height and looked down compassionately.

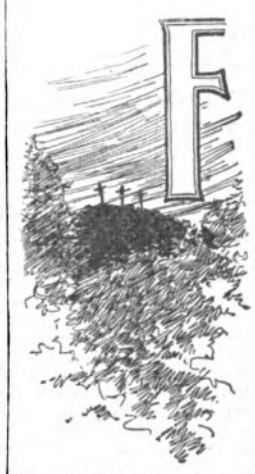
"You is young man," he said, "and do not understand dese t'ings. Gold is everywhere, all over de world; but dere is only one Katrina. I gif my notice now and go to de stage. And I say goot-bye."

The superintendent watched him down the hillside and then turned to his desk with a sigh.

"I am a young man," he thought, bitterly, "but I do understand. I have already lost my Katrina."

THE PASSION PLAY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FAR off in the mountains of Bavaria, in the little village of Oberammergau, there takes place each year a remarkable performance known as the Passion Play. The first of these performances took place over two hundred and fifty years ago. At that time a plague was afflicting the country, and the people of Oberammergau were among the sufferers. Nearly a hundred people had perished and the terror-stricken survivors vowed that if the plague were removed they would give a dramatic performance every ten years, illustrating the story of the life of Christ, and his sufferings, for the enlightenment of all mankind.

Strange as it may seem, the plague passed, and the villagers have ever since kept their vow faithfully. At the present time the fame of the Passion Play is world wide. People visit Oberammergau from all over the world to witness the wonderful performance of these simple villagers, who devote their lives to this performance, which with them is a most sacred duty. In the intervals between the plays they engage in their usual vocations, but as only inhabitants of the village are allowed to take part in the performance, and only those whose lives are comparatively blameless, it is considered a disgrace not to take part in the play, while on the other hand, to be permitted to take the part of Christ is the highest possible honor.

The last performance of the play was given in 1890, so the next one takes place next year, 1900.

Already the villagers are preparing for their parts. The leading character, of course, is that of Christ. This was taken in 1890 by Joseph Maier, who also represented Christ in 1870 and 1880. Of Maier's impersonation critics have had nothing to say but words of praise. It seems almost sacrilege for any man to attempt to represent Christ, but in Maier's impersonation there is nothing offensive; on the contrary, there is everything to love and to admire.

Maier is held in the greatest reverence by his fellow-villagers, and in his private life is a sensitive, refined, and modest man, leading a pure and blameless life and devoted to his work, his home and his family. He has had flattering offers from theatrical managers but will consider none of them, preferring the quiet and peace of his native village and his part in the Passion Play, which he regards as a most solemn religious duty.

Of the other characters it need only be said that they perform their parts ably and conscientiously, acting from a sense of religious duty, accepting their part as an honor, and with no thought of gain. This will be better understood when it is known that of the proceeds the actors receive only a sum equal to what they would have earned from equal time employed at their usual labor. The most of the money is spent for public improvements, and among other things, a school for wood-carving has been erected with this money.

The theater itself is a large wooden auditorium partially roofed over, and with a large stage, for in some of the scenes six hundred people take part. The air is mild and the play is too engrossing for the audience to mind an occasional shower, for the performance goes on rain or shine.

A cannon is fired as a signal that the drama is to begin, and the strains of the orchestra are heard in a solemn overture. The music as now performed was written by a former schoolmaster of the village, a man of remarkable musical ability, while the text was written in its present form by Father Daisenberger, a former priest of the village, who died in 1883. He also adapted some of the plays of Schiller for the use of his parishioners, and persuaded them to build an open-air theater, instead of giving their performances in the churchyard.

Through this good priest many of the incongruous features of the earlier performances were eliminated. For example, it used to be the custom for the devil and his imps to take part in the performance, appearing at intervals, and finally rushing upon Judas after the crucifixion of Christ. It was also customary in former days, just before the performance, for a messenger to rush upon the stage with a letter from the devil, urging the audience to make all the noise and disturbance possible, in order to interrupt the play, and promising them great rewards if they succeeded in so doing. But now these features have been omitted, and the play is consequently improved.

Eighteen acts and twenty-five tableaux, with chorus singing in the intervals, makes up in the Passion Play. The acts represent scenes in the life of Christ, beginning with his entry into Jerusalem, and portraying the events of his life until his resurrection. The tableaux are symbolic; scenes from the Old Testament which are considered prophetic or later events during the life of Christ.

The performance lasts all day and through it all the audience sit spellbound. The peasants from the country round regard the play as a sacred service, and will undergo any sacrifice to witness it. Others are sightseers who are powerfully affected by the vivid pictures and scenes, which are so real as to be positively painful. One sits through the play with heartfelt interest and feels at the end that he has been witnessing a real tragedy. What could more vividly bring to mind the life and sufferings of Christ than witnessing such a performance? Unimpressionable indeed would be he who could sit unmoved through a performance of the Passion Play—who could leave without realizing more deeply and fully the meaning of the story of Christ.

In Germany there is an institution called "The Housewives' Union," which devotes itself to the servant girl question. It has places for the training of servants, and it gives prizes for good ones. A girl who stays five years in one place gets a gold pin with an inscription which states that she is a good servant; and after she has been ten years in the same family she gets ten marks, or $2.50 in gold. At the end of twenty years she gets five dollars in gold, and if she remains with the same family thirty years at the close of this period she receives a present of thirty marks or six dollars in gold. It may be interesting to many to know that servants often remain thirty years with the same family in Germany. In this country it is the exception, and an exception very seldom found, that a servant will remain thirty years in one place. We greatly fear, too, that American servants would think $2.50 for ten years of service, or six dollars for thirty years, a very small reward.

The great fire of London, which occurred in 1666, exceeded all previous fires in magnitude, although there had already been some severe ones in London. It followed closely on the Plague, by which, in 1665, the city lost nearly one fifth of its population, and caused extreme consternation, not only by the losses occasioned by it but by the universal feeling of the people that the city was doomed to destruction in some way. The fire started at one o'clock of the morning of September second and raged for five days. 396 acres of houses were totally destroyed and others partially so. In all, 400 streets, 13,200 houses, 88 churches, St Paul's Cathedral, and four city gates were either damaged or destroyed. The money loss was 4,000,000 pounds sterling.

SAVE THE MEN

Women Now Have a Glorious Opportunity to Rescue Men From the Terrors of Drunkenness—a Secret Remedy given in Tea, Coffee or Food that Cures the Drunkard Without His Co-operation.

Free Trial Package of This Magnificent Cure Mailed Free to Every Lady who Writes—Do not Delay but Send at Once for the Free Trial and Test It.

Who can doubt that there is a cure for drunkenness when we have such an eloquent and emphatic statement from Mrs. Katie Lynch, 329 Ellis St., San Francisco, Cal., she says:—My husband was a hard drinker. There never was a doubt in my mind but what liquor had so worked upon his nerves as to actually control his appetite. Like most men who drink he was kind and generous when sober, but the rum demon usually had the better of him and his wife had to suffer. One day I concluded to try a remedy called Golden Specific, which it was said would cure the liquor habit secretly. So I mixed some of it with Mr. Lynch's food for a few days and put a little in his coffee. I could scarcely conceal my agitation and fear less he should suspicion me for he had suddenly taken a dislike to liquor, said he despised the stuff, and was the most remarkably changed man you ever saw. I kept bravely at it determined to not waver in any attempt to cure him and I soon found out that my mission was a complete success and that Golden Specific had wrought almost a miracle for me. I want other women to profit by my example and am glad to learn that Dr. Haines, who discovered Golden Specific, will generously send a free trial package to every woman who writes for it.



MRS. KATIE LYNCH.

Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 385 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio, and if you wish you are at liberty to refer to me as having told you about this marvelous remedy.

PLEASE TRY Cascarets CANDY CATHARTIC REGULATE THE LIVER 10c. 25c. 50c. All Druggists. ptd.



5000 BICYCLES Overstock. Must be closed out **Standard '99 Models** guaranteed, $10 to $25. '98 & '97 models $8 to $15. Shopworn and second hand wheels, good machines, $3 to $10. Great Factory Clearing Sale. We ship anywhere, to any one, on approval and trial without a cent in advance. **EARN A BICYCLE** by helping us advertise our superb wheels. Easy work and sure reward on our new plan. We will give one Rider Agent in each town **FREE USE** of Sample Wheel to introduce them. Write at Once for Our Special Offer. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago, Ill.

Boys & Girls We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 18 packages of **Royal English Ink Powder** at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you sell the **Ink Powder** send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. **We trust you.** Don't lose this grand opportunity. **Write for the outfit today.** Address all orders to IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.



Our Pinless Clothes Line. **A Perfect Line** that requires no pins and will not break. Sold only to Agents. PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., 100 B Beacon St., Worcester, Mass. Sample mailed for 50c.



This magnificent 14 K. is given free for selling among your friends at 5c. and address and we will so consignment. When mail the handsome bracelet back if you cannot sell the popular Curb Link, tive, both in pattern and SOLID GOLD laid bracelet only 20 cases of Perfumery a case. Simply send name mail perfumery, postpaid, sold send money and we will let. We take perfumery The style of the bracelet is and is very neat and attractive design. The lock is exquisitely engraved and chased, and opens with a very pretty LITTLE KEY. If you prefer a STERLING SILVER LAID BRACELET please state so when ordering. The Sterling Silver Laid Bracelet is considered very stylish. We give every man or woman a Solid Gold-laid Bracelet which we will buy back for $5.00 if not as represented. It is solid gold pattern and unsurpassed for beauty and durability. Remember, we give it free for disposing of 20 cases of our Perfumery at 15 cents per case. W. S. SIMPSON, Box 150, New York.

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$3.98 A $25.00 WATCH in appearance, the most beautiful watch ever manufactured. Double hunting case, stem wind and stem set, superbly engraved. Standard American ruby jeweled movement absolutely guaranteed for **20 YEARS** Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination, you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay express agent our special introductory price $3.98, and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want Gent's or Lady's size and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only. R. E. CHALMERS & CO., 352-356 Dearborn St., Chicago. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

PEARL AND GILT **Initial Stick Pins.**



New ideas in stick pins make them more popular than ever, we have just secured a **novelty** in these pearl and gold plated initial stick pins. It is a glad hand that holds the pure white pearl heart with the gilt initial securely fastened to it. The effect of the combination is very beautiful and we know after you once get one that many others who see them will order at once. These are really a 25c. article, but to introduce we will send samples, any initial desired, free to all who send us 10c. for a trial six months' subscription to **Sunshine**, the monthly that is needed in every home. If you want three stick pins all one initial or different send us 25c. for a year's subscription and get three of these popular stick pins, they are for Gents' or Ladies' use. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

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Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts SENT FREE.

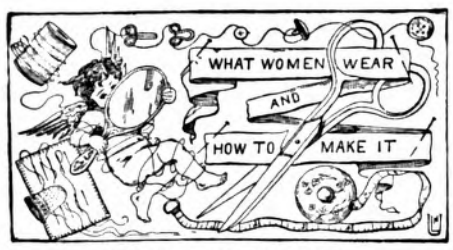
SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a **confection** they are peerless, **as a food unequaled.** German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain **three times the nutriment of wheat;** and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of **Pepsin Salt** to be a sure **cure for Dyspepsia** and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with **Bright's Disease** or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be **eaten in any quantity as a confection** without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia.

To Form Part of the **Treat or Refreshments** at party gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our **special process** of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate.

FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to responsible parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages **and get a watch,** a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send **one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents** for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. *No attention paid to first orders without trial 6c subscription.* Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. **FREE**

Address, COMFORT FOOD DEP'T C, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



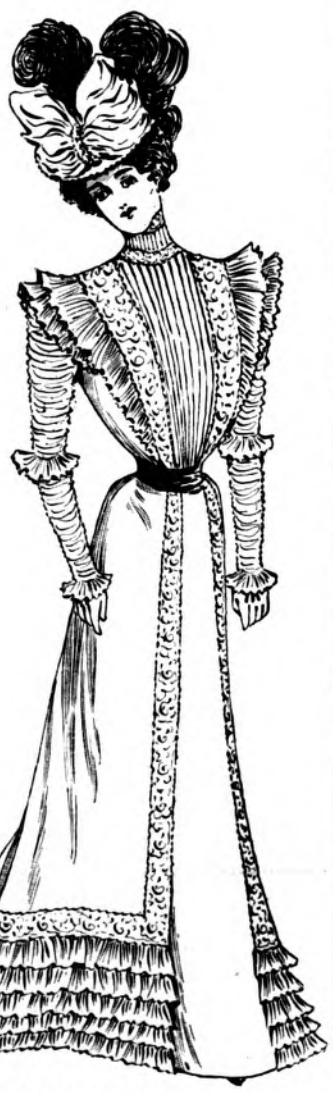
MID-SUMMER fabrics are supremely fascinating, to my mind, more so than has been the case for several seasons. One of the foremost of these numerous lovely stuffs is berege; not the old-fashioned material long ago known by that name, but a clever cross between crepe and berege, rendering it (so modistes testify), much more durable, and less likely to crack, or tear in slits.

Crepe de chines are also very much in vogue, as are nun's veilings, silky cashmeres, etc. A most fetching gown built of berege in the softest, palest shade of tan has its skirt cut circular, and intersected with dainty lace insertions and applique of yellow Honiton. This is set over a skirt of silvery green taffeta finished at the foot by a 3-inch plaiting. The round bodice is accordion pleated from shoulder to belt, with broad bands of the lace extending into the belt from the shoulder seams. Finishing touches of black velvet ribbon at the throat and belt complete a most airy, yet serviceable costume for a warm summer afternoon.

Another pretty frock, somewhat similarly built, is of palest smoke gray nun's veiling, the sheath skirt having a tunic effect by means of applied bands of yellow Honiton lace over white satin; bordering this at the foot are alternate frills of the gray, and white taffeta set very closely together giving a most frou frou finish. The bodice has a softly pleated vest bordered by bands of the lace edged over the shoulders with pleatings matching those used on the skirt. The sleeves are a unique feature, wrinkled across the arm with a pleated frill at both elbow and wrist.

Among pique gowns there are a number of smart new models, an attractive one being shown here, the sheath skirt trimmed with broad straps, so set on as to represent a tunic. The natty little eton coat has a like trimming, giving much jauntiness to the figure, while the fronts are a trifle longer, and are finished by a rolling collar and revers edged with narrower straps. With it is worn a shirt waist of white spotted with scarlet, set off at the throat with a scarf of Roman silk in which scarlet predominates, fastened at the front by a silver clasp.

For the "bike" maiden there is little to offer that is entirely new, and still the sketch offered in our initial, has attractive points to recommend it. The skirt, which is much more clinging than that of last season, is made up of doublefaced material; the right side, a dull dust color, the under side, a large plaid in shades of brown in which white is largely introduced. The hem is turned up on the outside, showing the plaid, and finished at the top with several rows of stitching.



OF GRAY NUN'S VEILING.

The shirt waist, which is an entirely new model, is made up of white pique. The yoke fancifully decorated with straps and stiff little tucks.

Very brilliant are the colorings of some of the new waists, being broadly striped or spotted, the stripes running up and down.

A smart addition to the summer tailor gown is the Admiral collar, made quite separate from the coat, but carefully cut so as to fit exactly, often forming a vest at the front when the coat is worn open. They are made of heavy, creamy white Kersey, beautifully braided with gold, or entirely plain, while very pretty ones are entirely of scarlet stock. Serviceable ones of shrunken white pique are considered *au fait*. All shirt waist materials should be well shrunken before being made up. Point de' sprit makes the daintest sort of frills for my little lady's best white gown, especially if the material used be thin stuff.



A NATTY ETON JACKET.

A stylish hat to be worn with tailor gowns is a square-crowned sailor, with a narrow, rolling brim bound with black velvet, the crown encircled with a broad band of the same, finished at the side with an upstanding bow set off by a couple of black quills. A similar hat has a scarf of gray and white striped silk, draped about the crown, with a soft knot at the side in which are inserted a couple of gray wings. Both are exceedingly good style. A pretty way to renovate last season's sailor hats, if they happen to be white straw, is to trim them with a band of black velvet and clusters of black wings, arranged at each side of the front, with perhaps a little black tulle or net to soften the effect. The frenzy for hats flared off the face has almost entirely subsided, the far more comfortable fashion of wearing the hat well over the face being popular to a degree.

A modish finish for the neck, with a linen collar, is a broad ribbon brought around the throat and fastened in the front by a silver clasp. They are shown in the shops in a variety of styles, and are wonderfully reasonable in price.

The newest thing in face veils shows dots of chenille, nearly as large as a ten cent silver piece, set quite a space apart.

A new and most comfortable fancy is to finish the skirt of a tailor-made gown with a stitched belt of velvet, fastened to the skirt all ready to adjust at a moment's notice.

Leather belts are being pushed into the background by those of ribbon belting, the latter being far more pliable and yielding to the figure, hence more becoming, a fact quickly discovered by the fair sex.

THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.

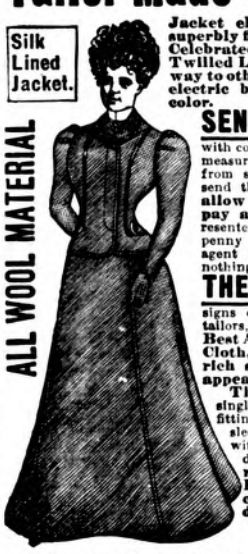
Cost in single copies at least 40 cents each; but we have a book of one hundred and fifty-six popular songs sentimental, pathetic and comic with words and music complete which we will send to any friend who will send six cents to pay mailing expenses and our illustrated catalogue of latest bargains.

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Tailor Made Suit $4.98

Silk Lined Jacket.

ALL WOOL MATERIAL



Jacket elegantly silk lined, skirt superbly finished; made from Dahl's Celebrated Fast Color All-wool Fine Twilled Ladies' Cloth; equal every way to others $10 Suits. Choice of electric blue, navy blue or black color.

SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. with color desired; give bust and waist measure, length of skirt (down front) from skirtband to bottom and we'll send the suit by express C.O.D. and **allow you to try it on before you pay a cent.** If found just as represented, a perfect fit and worth every penny of $10.00, then pay the express agent $4.98 and expressage. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory.

THE SUIT is made by expert men tailors over designs drawn by that king of ladies' tailors, M. LaRochelle, from **Dahl's Best All Wool Fast Color Ladies' Cloth,** famous everywhere for its **rich soft bloom and beautiful appearance.**

The Jacket is made in latest single-breasted style, with tight-fitting back and new fashionable sleeves, it is superbly trimmed with fine satin bands, artistically double silk-stitched and **elaborately lined with real French Silk of beautiful colorings and exquisite designs. The Skirt** is splendidly lined, has new fan back, nobby welted seams, is four yards wide and hangs graceful and stylish; from start to finish the suit's tailor-made and worth fully $10.00.

Write for our Big Free Bargain Catalogue of other Suits, Skirts, Capes, Jackets, etc.

THE LOUIS R. VEHON CO., 155-157 W. Jackson St., Chicago, Ill.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

A Beautiful Solid Gold Filled Watch



Stem wind, stem set, beautifully engraved, with a genuine American movement, warranted for two years.

AS A PRESENT TO YOU

for a few minutes' work. All we ask is that you sell for us to your friends and neighbors 100 of our famous LADY BEAUTY PINS, at 5 cents each (regular price, 10 cents). They have only to be shown to sell—every lady and girl in the land needs several.

SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU.

If you would like to have the watch, just send us your name and address, saying that you will sell the pins or return them, and we will forward them **AT ONCE.** We are selling a million a month of these pins, and everybody is more than pleased with them. This watch is the best ever offered, and is easily earned on account of the small amount to be sold—others are asking sales of $50 for same watch. Send in your name to-day. Don't wait.

We have other premiums for smaller sales. You get our beautiful premium list with the goods. If you don't sell them all, you get a premium for what you do sell. The publisher of this paper will vouch for our reliability. Be sure to write us to-day.

LADIES PIN CO., 804 SCHILLER BLDG., CHICAGO.

SOME SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT DIAMONDS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



LOOKING through some old volumes recently, I came upon one which gave what was at that time I suppose, a most learned discourse on the subject of diamonds. Some of the statements made would cause a modern scientist to smile, but then, perhaps in the course of a few hundred years our descendants will think our assertions as ridiculous.

In the first place, we have the growth of the diamond. "They are found in a mass that cometh out of gold, and when the mass is broken open some are found as great as peas. They are commonly found upon the rocks in the sea and upon hills where a mine of gold is. They have children which grow larger and larger year by year, and are nourished by dew from heaven. If they are taken with a little of the rock on which they are found, and kept wet with dew, they may be made to grow, and the small diamond becomes great."

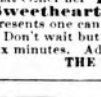
Here are some of its virtues. The owner of a diamond according to this account, is lucky indeed. "The diamond should be worn upon

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7.)

A PURE ALUMINUM PENCIL. FROSTED SILVER FINISH.

A beautiful automatic pocket pencil made of pure aluminum, the lightest, toughest and longest wearing metal in existence. *Looks like frosted silver* and will wear for five years, has rubber on end and movable lead. Makes a handsome present and is rich and distinguished looking when taken from pocket or desk. Will send one free if you will immediately send seven cents for mailing charges and a trial three months' subscription to GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

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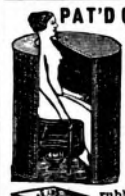


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We recommend the above firm as reliable.—Editor.

$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE



for selling only six of our **Electric Porous Plasters.** We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for **Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism,** etc., etc., and will send you six of our 25c. Plasters which you are to sell and return the money ($1.50) to us and we will send you, all charges paid, the **elegant Shaving Set** packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand $5.00 combination. **Every man** should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use. **Every Woman** should see to it that either her **Father,** her **Husband,** her **Brother** or her **Sweetheart** has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address

THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta Maine.

FEEL YOUR PULSE



Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

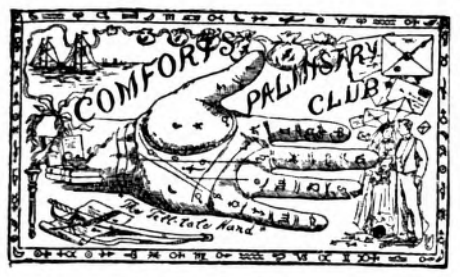
Address **DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 Augusta, Maine.**

CUT GLASS, SILVER TOP CREAM PITCHER FREE.



This refined Cut Glass finish Cream Pitcher is like crystal diamonds in its sparkling beauty; and is just a neat handy size for table creamer. Its pattern is the latest thing in style, and having a **Quadruple Silver Plated Rim** to top it out makes it as dainty as it is chaste and beautiful. Heretofore anything in **cut glass** has been so very expensive that the price has prevented its general use. By the invention of special new machinery the high cost has been largely overcome and we can now present a premium of genuine worth to be given free for a few minutes work. This cream pitcher with its dainty silver topped rim is **pretty** enough to grace any table and it will **give a fine effect and** make a good setting to the **rest of one's table fittings.** It should sell for 67c, but we will **send one free,** all charges paid, for a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c each or send 33c for a **year's subscription and we will send** the creamer to you free. Address

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I REGRET to say that many of the COMFORT readers who desire their hands read in this department are very careless about sending their impressions properly marked so that they can be connected with their letters. Some hands come to me with nothing on them to tell where they come from or to whom they belong; then again letters come saying that hands have been sent, but not giving any clue by which we can find their hands even if they had been received at this office. It is much the safest way to enclose the hands and the letters in the same wrapper and pay full postage on them as then we are not likely to lose them. Where they come separately they do not always reach us and as I said it is often impossible to connect the impressions with the right letters.

If the lady who wrote from Sioux City with regard to "Lygia's" hand will send a new impression and mention what she writes about in her letter of Feb. 16th, I will give it a new reading. We also had a letter from a lady in Chalk Mound, Kan., stating that she has sent hands and complying with the necessary conditions for reading. The hands have never been received. If she will forward them again, I will hold her letter. Also the lady from Portland, Oregon, signing "M. A." has never had her reading because her hands have not been received. If these can be attended to by the writers, I shall be glad to do my part towards them.

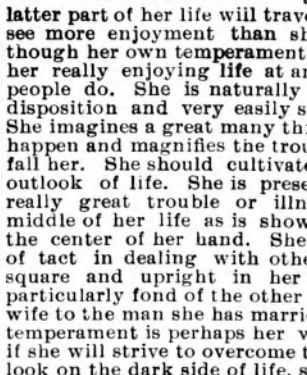
"Scholar" has sent a plaster caste of only the palm of his hand. As I have often said, it is necessary to see the size and shape of the entire hand, the relative size and condition of the fingers and both the right and left hand impressions in order to give an accurate reading; however, as he asks for a reading of these lines, I will do my best with it. "Scholar" has a long life and will see many changes. His health in childhood was delicate, and although he was very ambitious he was often hindered from accomplishing what he desired on account of his delicate health. A strange influence



"SCHOLAR."

at work in this life. At about the age of forty a line arises from the life line going to the Mount of Apollo which contains an island. If this is shown in both hands it would indicate that this person is connected with some scandal at that age which would affect his reputation. There are many lines which droop from the life line after the age of fifty, indicating various troubles which I should say might come from poor health and loss of friends, rather than from poverty, as the line on Apollo indicates wealth. There is a very strong fate line indicating great success and although the hand is very hollow I think a successful career with gratified ambitions and wealth will come. Some very strong friendship formed in childhood follows at a distance through life, although somewhat removed from this person. A love affair in early life also results in disappointment. I should think, however, that a successful marriage took place not far from the age of forty. This is a very interesting hand, although as I have said, it is impossible to give definitely the positive happenings.

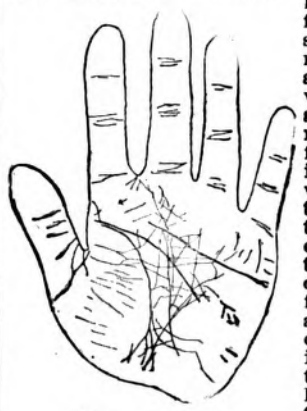
"B. Hunt" has sent a variety of good impressions. He has a strongly-marked hand which indicates good business talent and, in the main, good business judgment. He is, however, a little too much afraid to venture; when he feels that a certain venture would be a good one, he does not always have the courage to carry it out. He is developing this sort of courage and that will result in financial success. He makes his own way in the world, although he is somewhat helped by outside influences. He has a very strong will and much tact in dealing with others. He will have his own way in most things, but knows how to get it without antagonizing people. His health after the age of twenty is good up to old age. He has some interferences in his business career and will have to make a hard fight from thirty to fifty, but he will succeed owing to his now force of character in whatever he undertakes. He has an uncommon force and power over others. A clear head, good judgment and charity for the failings of others will help him in many a tight place. He is a very ambitious man and will succeed in fulfilling his ambitions, although the best of his success will not come until he is about forty-five to fifty. After that, riches and comfort will be his. He is preserved from some illness or other calamity during the ages of twenty-five to thirty-five and will marry at about the age of thirty-five or forty. I see but one marriage here. In this, as in other things, he will use good judgment, will be faithful and true and affectionate, but will never be carried off his feet by passion as some men are. There will be some strong influence come into his life at about the age of fifty which will affect it very favorably thereafter. He will travel during the latter part of his life and I think will die in a foreign land. He has the gift of oratory and will succeed as a lawyer or in any career where his persuasive powers have full play. He must not be discouraged if he meets with some obstacles to financial success during the early part of his career, as he has an uncommonly favorable hand with exceptionally good results after he is fifty. He has perseverance and good courage which will help him to work and achieve definite results. I see no signs of bad luck in his hand but a steady growth from beginning to end.



"B. HUNT."

"Mrs. J. J. R." does not give me a nom de plume and therefore I must use the initials to her name which was sent in December. She asks for a special reading to be sent by mail. Several people have asked this, but the conditions are that they shall be read in the paper for the benefit of all.

"Mrs. J. J. R." has had a great deal of trouble. Her childhood was not only troubled with delicate health, but she was in some way bound and subjected to others in a way which hindered her happiness. She was married young, and I should say made a rather sudden match which has not proved happy. Several great griefs have come to her through it and a period of some fifteen years or more she has seen or will see a good deal of trouble. I do not think she has had any children, at least she ought not to have had. After the age of forty-five, when a new influence comes into her life, however, she will find things much smoother and more comfortable. I think she will marry again at that age. If not, some strong friendship comes into her life then, which will materially help her the rest of her days. She needs to be very careful of her health from fifty to sixty as there is some danger of a severe illness at that time. She will live on after that to a good old age and during the latter part of her life will travel somewhat and see more enjoyment than she has done, although her own temperament is rather against her really enjoying life at any time as some people do. She is naturally of a melancholy disposition and very easily swayed by others. She imagines a great many things which never happen and magnifies the troubles that do befall her. She should cultivate a more cheerful outlook of life. She is preserved from some really great trouble or illness, during the middle of her life as is shown by a square in the center of her hand. She has a good deal of tact in dealing with other people and is square and upright in her life. She is not particularly fond of the other sex, but is a true wife to the man she has married. Her nervous temperament is perhaps her worst enemy and if she will strive to overcome this and refuse to look on the dark side of life, she will find this world a much more cheerful place.



"MRS. J. J. R."

It is much better to have the fate-line broken and interrupted at the beginning or lower end, than to have it so at the upper end, as the latter indicates the closing years of life and if they are to be successful the lines should be clear and strong, or helped out by other lines at that age. If the line is strong and irregular in a hand that is much cut up by lines and cross rays it indicates an irritable temper. A long fate line reaching up to the middle finger indicates a long life and even helps out a short life line. A cross on this line indicates a change of prospects at the age indicated by its position on the line. A star at the base of this line denotes a loss of fortune in early youth. An island on this line shows conjugal infidelity in a bad hand, or a hopeless love in a good hand.

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SOME SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT DIAMONDS.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

the left side, for it is of greater virtue there, for the strength of its growing is towards the north, that is the left side of the world, and the left part of man, when he turneth his face toward the east. He who carries a diamond will have strength and manhood; it will keep him from harm, especially from broken limbs. It will give him victory over all his enemies, if his cause is righteous. It will keep him from strife and riots, and is a talisman against enchantments. In fact if an enchanter tries to work a spell upon the possessor of a diamond, he will find it will work upon himself instead. No wild beast will attack the diamond's owner. It heals all manner of mental troubles. If poison be brought near it, the diamond will become moist and sweat.

"In order to be of the greatest virtue, the diamond must be given freely instead of being bought."

Here, according to our authority, is the way to detect genuine diamonds. First cut with them or write on crystal. Then take a piece of adamant, or lode stone and a compass. If the diamond is genuine the compass will not be affected by the lode stone while the diamond is near.

Sometimes, through the misbehavior of its owner, the diamond loses its virtue and then we suppose the owner must either reform or give his diamond to some better owner.

The average weight of an American man is one hundred forty-one and one-half pounds; of a woman one hundred twenty-four and one-half.

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The month of roses and "[illegible]ments" and weddings. All topics for suggestive moralizing but the spirit of June is too optimistic. Let us forget December and revel in the "[illegible]."

June. "Then if ever come perfect days." There is an invitation in the sky, the air, the earth, the sea. They say so unmistakably, "Won't you come out and play" that he who lingers must be deaf indeed.

The world now has a chance to wag on carelessly, merrily, without any analysis of things as they are or prophesies of things as they "ought to be." In other words the woman's clubs have shut up shop, drank their last cup of tea, read their last paper and subsided for two months into the great mass of femininity that never has any definite purpose. Even "Queen Lavinia" has wrapped her crown and scepter up in moth balls and gone fishing. The greatest relief is not to the world that escapes being taken seriously for two months, but to the poor purposeful women who are given a chance to forget themselves for the same time. "Silence like a poultice comes to heal the blows of sound."

There is an occasional striking illustration of the old proverb "the mills of the gods grind slowly but they grind exceeding small." Poor old Roger Williams, who vanished from Massachusetts in 1635, at last is in a fair way to have justice done him. The legislature of Massachusetts has been humbly petitioned to revoke the sentence of banishment. It is urged upon them that one man in those far off times felt the injustice of the act. John Winthrop, the old Puritan governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony urged in vain that the sentence be repealed. It still stands upon the statute books of the state. The sentiments for which Roger Williams was driven into the wilderness are to-day the universal belief of the Republic. Entire and complete religious freedom has spread beyond the confines of the little state and is undisputed even in the old Puritan colony that drove the apostle of religious liberty from its domain. On the face of it, the demand to revoke the sentence of banishment against a man a century dead would provoke a smile and a jest. But there is a deep significance in the act. Religion is a personal matter between man and his Maker and all systems that have tried to intervene whether they were Church or State, have found themselves set aside by the onward progress of events.

The sunbonnet of our grandmothers is very much in evidence these June days. On the golf grounds, at the seaside or the mountains bright young faces peer bewitchingly out of a mass of frills and frippery that go to make up the modern sunbonnet. Last year a few sunbonnets appeared but the "fad" was to go bare headed. This year the bonnets seem to be firmly fastened in popular favor. There are many who recall the pink and green gingham abominations of their childhood with wonder as they gaze at their modern substitutes. The old sunbonnet were purely utilitarian. They had wide stitched spaces where slats of pasteboard were inserted. This made a stiff circle of ugliness around the face. Many were rebellious against the sunbonnet—how many times it was lost and how altogether and pleasantly naughty it was to tie the stringy strings in a hard knot and let the freckle shielder dangle at the back of the neck. What blissful elegance when one was allowed to wear a hat! So fickle Dame Fashion has waved her wand and the old-time horror is a thing of beauty. The sailor and the Alpine are stiff and mannish and the knowing maiden retreats behind the shade of her coquettish frills of lace and organdy and re-lives the old rhyme, "Tying her bonnet under her chin, she ties a young man's heart within."

The free people of the United States and the lovers of liberty the world over are taking an intense interest in the subject of Finnish freedom. The little peninsula of Finland is naturally a part of Sweden but in 1809 it passed into the control of Russia. It was, however, allowed to keep its separate Parliament. Finland grew and flourished under the mild rule of Russia. Its people are educated and progressive. Suddenly the "Great White Czar" who has been purchasing the most advanced theories of government, has issued a most tyrannical edict in respect to Finland. Her Parliament is to be abolished, Russian is to be the official language taught in all the schools, a Russian governor is to be sent from St. Petersburg and in every way the people of Finland are to be Russianized. The Finns in this country are using every effort to influence public sentiment and by the signing of petitions to prevent the loss of their freedom. The little peninsula is in a fever of patriotic protest. There are nearly 200,000 Finns in the United States and their effort and those of their countrymen at home are giving the world at large an extensive knowledge of this little known section, the peninsula of Finland. The former Czar promised them autonomy when the peninsula was ceded to Russia, and they demand faith from his descendant Nicholas.

The spring and summer of 1899 have brought some remarkable tercentenary events. April was the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of Oliver Cromwell, the man who shaped the revolutionary forces of a religious rebellion into a powerful lever that raised the plain people to a position they never have lost in England. June brings the three hundredth anniversary of one of the great masters of art—Velasquez. He was born at Seville in June 1599. He was of Portuguese descent. He began to study art in the old Spanish city. He learned more than the art of painting in the house of his instructor and soon married the daughter of his master. All of Velasquez's early paintings are of peasant life. It was this contact with reality that made his work so strong a contrast to that of the school of idealists. He began to paint portraits and by a succession of fortunate acquaintances finally reached the King. His portrait of Philip IV. of Spain gave him instant and lasting fame. He was the court painter and many of the haughty grandees of Spain in the hour of her greatness look forth to-day from the canvasses of Velasquez. Every mark of royal favor was showered upon the once obscure painter. The Cross of Santiago was awarded him. This was a favor bestowed until then only upon the nobility. Velasquez painted a portrait of Charles I., the victim of the storm of Puritan rage that Cromwell directed. This portrait is unfortunately lost. Velasquez painted landscapes and historical paintings of great value but it is in his portraits that he is seen at his best. There is a force, a penetration, a directness about them that carries conviction. The spirit of the age he painted lives in the work of the great Spanish master. There are but few specimens of Velasquez's work in this country and those few by no means show him at his best. By far the greatest and most valuable of his works are among the art treasures of Madrid. The tercentenary is to be celebrated with becoming ceremonies. One cannot fail, however, to draw a mournful historical parallel between the Spain of Velasquez and the Spain that celebrates his three hundredth birthday.

This is in every sense an altruistic age. If the world does not grow better it will not be because men and women of this nineteenth century do not give of their time, their talent, and their wealth to accomplish that end. We grow more and more in the appreciation of the fact that man's material surroundings have a powerful ethical influence. Bare walls, unsightly buildings and sordid surroundings produce a barrenness of soul that gives pitiful results. A factory and a factory town usually show only the hard side of unlovely toil. One western factory owner has produced a moral revolution in a town where his factory buildings were long the crowning eyesore of a general desolation. A bed of flowers was planted in the middle of a grass plot. The spot of brightness found an answering gleam in tired eyes. Then the practical owner realized some lack in the general effect and with hard-headed business sense called in a landscape gardener and gave the factory grounds into his hands. The factory was worse than a desert, it was an inhabited horror, but it was made to "blossom as the rose." The influence of the vines, flowers and grass extended to the unlovely cottages of the employees. As a result that neighborhood is a bower of beauty. Even June would love to linger there to count her wealth. The whole surroundings of factory and cottages are like some beautiful private park. A healthy spirit of emulation has arisen and prizes are offered for the best results. It is an idea that deserves wider adoption. The factory owner became so much interested that he paid for horticultural lectures during the winter. Lantern slides gave views taken at Cornell and at the home of Helen Gould at Irvington. All that science and wealth could command was at the disposal of the employees. An oath is rarely heard there now, gossip is about trees and plants. The "garden" condition has brought back some of the other conditions of Eden. All because one practical man tried an experiment in altruism.

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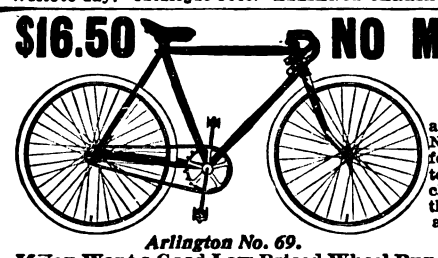


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101	Ancients Abroad. March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
35	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
33	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasalde
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missud
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewska
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
63	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
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89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Zichrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
83	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1898 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
29	Sweet Long Ago Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
57	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
44	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reissmann
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneas
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, to-night. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
4	Esther's Lullaby. Slumber Song	Mosher
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
54	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
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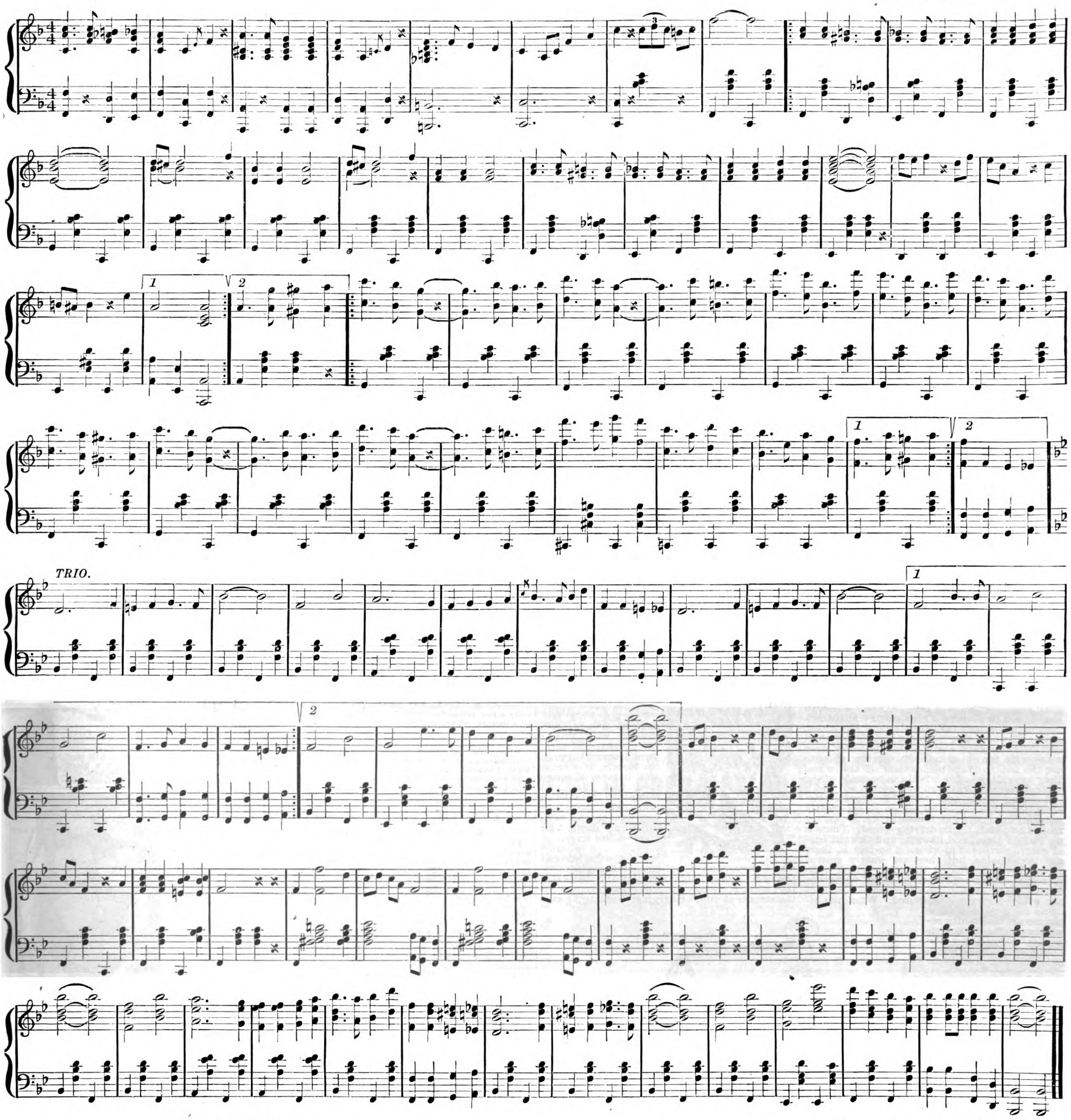
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THE RALEIGH TWO STEP.

FRANK R. GILLIS.



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THE RETURN OF THE RALEIGH.

The First of Dewey's Famous Fighters Reaches Home.

Probably no arrival of any ship in America has caused the interest which did the return of the Raleigh from the Philippines last month. Her voyage from Manila through the Suez Canal and Mediterranean was a series of grand ovations, none exceeding in spirit those of the British garrisons and the welcomes of England's fleets at the various stations on the way home.

When the good ship reached New York she was welcomed with an enthusiasm which will be remembered for years by those that witnessed it. For several days New York was in possession of the gallant officers and tars of the Raleigh. American enthusiasm always brings forth music commemorative of any event of national importance and the return of this war vessel which took such a conspicuous part in the greatest naval engagement of modern times, naturally could be no exception to this rule. As a consequence there have been a number of works of more or less merit produced by enthusiastic composers.

But it has been reserved for COMFORT to publish for the first time one of those grand swinging two-steps which seem to have the triumphant martial spirit breathing in every note. So appropriate to this particular occasion was this composition that the composer could have made no more happy a hit than to name it for this popular ship, whose name at this time is on the tongue of every patriot.

With this little explanation COMFORT feels that every player who shall try this famous two-step will be able to throw in more expression and a livelier air of joy, as every musician realizes how much the spirit has to do with the production of music. But this is particularly true whenever the prevailing spirit of a piece is intended to be one of the deeper emotion, such as the triumph of an armed force.

But turning from this event in our nation's history to the future we see that in a short time the Raleigh will be followed by one even greater, the Olympia, which will bear to our shores the great naval hero, Admiral Dewey. At that time we may look for many more pieces of appropriate musical welcome of which COMFORT hopes to produce at least one of sufficient value to make it of lasting value.

It is pleasant at such a time to contemplate how much better able people are to judge the real merit of music than they were a few years ago. While at no time have Americans been deficient in musical taste, still at no time until a comparatively recent date has the general public been educated to a point where really fine music was appreciated as well as that of an ordinary class. It is probable that there would not have been that wonderful increase in musical cultivation had the art been kept in a position where only the rich could indulge in it, as was the case up to a few years ago.

Until then really good music was sold only at high prices, save only when some firm brought out a small book collection. But the reduction in the price of paper and the introduction of modern methods and machinery in printing and production have entirely revolutionized the situation, and now the best sheet music of full size and exactly as formerly sold from 40 cents to $1.00 a number reaches the buyer at about the cost of mailing alone.

How can this be? You ask. It seems impossible and yet really nothing is simpler. COMFORT makes a musical offer on another page for you and your friends. Try it, and if you have a shadow of dissatisfaction we will promptly return your money. More we could not promise nor can we expect you to understand the wonderful bargain until you yourself see it.

From thousands of delightful letters in appreciation of our attempt to make good music popular by placing it in homes practically without cost we copy one or two. "I have recommended the music to several friends," writes Mrs. George Hall, 204 Sheridan St., Brantford, Ont., "who are going to send for some. It is just as good as any 40c. or 60c. music here, and you may say I said so." "I received my music in good form," says Mary K. Young, 1415 Lincoln Ave., Pittsburg, Pa. "I am much pleased with music and type and wonder how you can sell it so cheap. You will get my custom, and also all my friends. I will send for more." Thus from city, town or country come always the same warm words of pleasure and surprise. Read the offer and give it just one trial.

Cuba has had several names in history. The first was Antilla, then Juana, after a Spanish prince. Ferdinanda was the third name, Santiago the fourth, then the Isle of Ave Maria. The original Indian name, Cubanacan, signifying "where gold is found," was finally adopted and this has been shortened to Cuba.

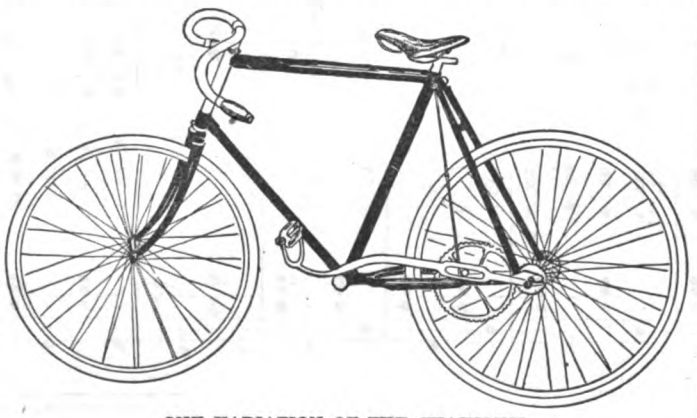


CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

ALTHOUGH the automobile is engaging the attention of the newspapers and the class of people who seek the novel wherever it may be found, the bicycle is just as popular as ever; even more so. The demand for wheels has been so great that many stores have turned patrons away, and nearly all have opened evenings in order to accommodate the spring rush of trade. One Chicago concern disposed of 358 wheels in one day last week, and others are about on a par. The men who are handling the thirty-inch wheel report remarkable success. The chainless wheel continues to get its share of the patronage, but on the whole the demand seems to be as well divided as the classes of wheels.

The accompanying illustration shows a variation of the ordinary chainless, and one which has its advantages. We have the privilege of using a photograph for our cut, which has never been given for illustration before. The inventor is Mr. F. J. Repp, and it seems to us he has a good thing. Patents have been applied for both in America and foreign countries and no doubt it will soon be on the market. This wheel has a large and small straight cog-gear on each side with lever pivoted on rear axle, a slot in said levers engaging crank pins and the said shanks being fastened to large cog-gears, through frame with ball bearings. These levers move up and down, instead of in circular movement, and the pedal crank sprocket and chain impart the motive power to the rear wheel. The advantages gained by this invention are said to be the doing away with the troublesome chain and with imperfections in bevel gearing, it is less tiresome to ride, as the up and down movement requires only two-thirds of the movement of legs and feet required in circular crank movement. Pants guards are unnecessary as the feet always remain above the levers and pedals. This would be a great advantage to lady riders, as it does not necessarily require short skirts, and dress guards are not needed. Another advantage over all heretofore invented chainless wheels which have an objectional wide tread is that the tract on this can easily be made at two inches and even less; the pedals being placed in the center of the levers instead of outside, as on the old-fashioned crank. It will be noticed that on this invention the mechanism is concentrated in a very small space by the rear wheel, not even reaching as far as rim of rear wheel, so that it can be covered with a small transparent case insuring well-lubricated cogs free from grit, and wear, and less friction. This wheel can easily be kept clean and apparently does away with the objections of not being able to see the nature of the mechanism of the wheel they are riding. The wheel can be made of the same weight as usual run of wheels.

Another brand new design in bicycle construction shows a wheel which is apparently without any means of transmitting the power from the pedals to the driving wheel. There is no visible drain, and likewise no awkward bevel gearing exposed to view. The fact is, there are two chains, but they are snugly stowed away in the depths of the tubes which comprise the frame construction. The advantage of two chains is that the strain on the parts of the wheel is evenly distributed. When the bicycle is in motion these chains are constantly revolving through the triangles formed by the rear tubing, the apex of this triangle being directly under the seat, where they pass over a pulley. A pedal shaft is mounted in one of the lower corners of the said frames, the shaft of the drive wheel being passed through the lower corner and a supplemental shaft passing through the apices of the frame, both shafts being supplied with sprocket wheels. The outer edge of the larger sprocket is fitted into the slot openings of the frame, so that the chain in making a tour of the triangle passes completely over both wheels. The tubing affords such complete protection that there is rarely any occasion for removing it for any purpose whatever, but means are provided for doing this should the occasion arise.



ONE VARIATION OF THE CHAINLESS.

A new gear for a chainless wheel has come upon the market. It consists of a large intermediate wheel to connect the sprocket with the rear wheel. The gears of the front and rear wheels are meshed into the immediate gear, which is made of two rings, one forged within the other. The mechanism is accurate and the whole is encased. The designs lack beauty, but there is no extra weight. In view of the growing popularity of the chainless wheel, new gears are to be expected.

Another new invention is an electric light which can be recharged by a contrivance attached to the wires of an ordinary incandescent lamp. A manufacturer has recently produced one and claims that it is soon going to be a common thing. His directions for charging the electric lamp are given as follows: Remove the incandescent lamp from electric fixture and screw socket in its place. Then screw incandescent lamp in socket. Remove the small incandescent bulb from lamp reflector and screw battery-charging tap in its place. Turn on electric light current and touch the ends of wire to a moistened piece of litmus paper. The end that discolors the paper is the negative pole and must be inserted in the proper hole. Insert the other end of the wire in the remaining hole. Simply turn on the screw at the top of the lamp, and if proper connections have been made the large incandescent lamp will light and the recharging of the batteries begin, which, in order to obtain a full charge, should be continued for four hours, but must not be carried further.

Many wildly enthusiastic wheelers, when enumerating the manifold blessings bestowed on humanity by their idol, the bicycle, declare that within twelve months it has accomplished what all the physical culturists have never been able to—made women throw away stays and laces and rely for support on their muscles. Now, the best authorities on women's needs and anatomy do not at all advise her to lay whalebones aside entirely, and it is only a small minority who, when wheeling, think it necessary or advisable to lay aside their corsets. The bicycle corset proper is supposed to give greater freedom and suppleness of motion to the wearer's body than do ordinary stays.

Another invention designed exclusively for the fair sex is called the "blush preventer," and is the brilliant idea of a gentleman named Cherry. It strongly resembles two enormous bat wings which are arranged one at each side of the wheel, in such a manner as to completely conceal the raiment and motion of the rider from the knee down. Whether it will become popular is still a very open question.

Of course, the ideal stocking is the man's be-chess-boarded golf stocking. But very few women can wear them as they are uncomfortably rough. However, there is a mixture of silk and wool, which is very effective in these designs and not at all uncomfortable to wear.

Sure it is that the bicycle has done more to "emancipate" and develop the modern woman than any other invention. It is one of the most powerful factors for health and enjoyment of both men and women, and we can all paraphrae Sancho Panza a little and say:

"God bless the man who first invented the bicycle!" Wherever he may be.

LOGS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



CAN see them as I write, those logs that once were trees. Far up in the wilds of Maine they were cut, their branches lopped off, and the tall, straight trunks, still covered with their thick coating of bark, were dragged through the forests, over rocks and briers, through mud and mire, and flung into the lake to take their long, winding way to the sawmill far down the river—miles away.

From my window just above the bridge I watch them come, toppling helter-skelter over the dam; and as they glide by on the blue water they seem strangely like human voyagers on the stream of life. Hurrying, jostling, pushing, crowding, on they go, each one seemingly caring only for himself, and trying to get the best place; the stronger ever crowding out the weaker, the larger usurping the place of the smaller, mounting upon them, using them as vehicles for their onward progress, and so sailing triumphantly, successfully on above the roar and grind, the wear and tear, the buffetings and misery of the weaker crowd whom they have pushed down and submerged in their own wild struggle for supremacy.

Worn old veterans many of them are, bruised and scarred with the long voyage; some with their bark entirely rubbed away by rough contact with their fellows—the larger number bare in spots. Here comes a hoary old veteran, straight and strong, but utterly stripped of bark, and not a single log to keep him company as he nears the end of his journey. Here comes a rollicking crowd of young, slender logs—too light and small for any great friction with each other; *their* bark is still intact, and they come dancing gayly on like a party of young folks out on a frolic.

Here is a slender, black log with a very small, short one hugging it closely, and no other log near them; and my fancy pictures the sad young widow and her only child wending their lonely way through life.

Next comes a stalwart father with his wife and family, and behind them, at a safe distance, comes a dapper beau hesitating between two girls, now bobbing over to one and then quickly veering to the other, and I can almost hear him say:

"Oh, happy could I be with either, were t'other dear charmer away!"

Here plods on a crabbed old bachelor all alone, who thinks "women are *so* extravagant!" Now a bevy of them bear down upon him, seemingly bent upon taking him by storm, but he perceives their intention and turns his back squarely as they draw near, and floats off at a tangent, leaving them poking all their sharp corners at each other.

Yonder speeds along a company of sturdy logs, floating with the current, heads all pointed for the distant haven; with nothing to trouble or annoy them they enjoy each other's society, and behave civilly to each other as gentlemen should; swerving gently from side to side to give room for all knots or elbows. But lo! an eddy is reached. The waters begin to boil and bubble, and threaten to engulf the voyagers, and in an instant the calm courtesy of the crowd has vanished. Each one for himself is now the motto of all, and a struggle for supremacy sets in. The stronger override the weaker, and rush on to success and safety over their submerged and overthrown brothers. So like to poor, weak, selfish humanity.

And so they travel on; ever shifting, ever changing, ever presenting new pictures to my fancy; pictures of human nature in all its weakness and frailty, in all its manliness and strength, in all its need of help, both human and divine.

In East Africa is a river that flows in the direction of the sea but never reaches it. When only a few miles from the Indian Ocean it flows into a desert, where it disappears.

When an ostrich is preparing to hatch, she scratches a hole in the ground about the size of a bushel basket. Eggs are then laid day after day, and are arranged around the hole. When 21 are laid the bird picks them into the hole.

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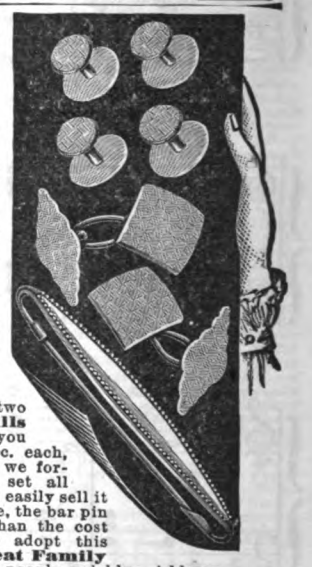
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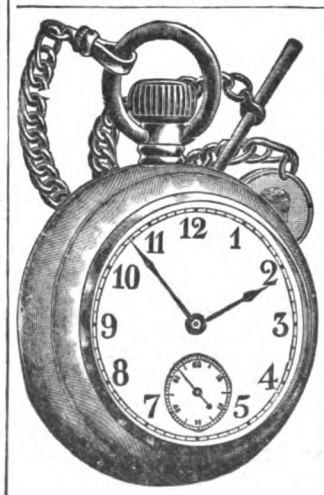
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[The above Co. is reliable and every wheel a bargain—Editor.]

CUTS STEEL AS A DIAMOND CUTS GLASS.


Every Housekeeper Needs One. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" sharpens all Table Cutlery, Scythes, Mowing Machines, Corn Cutters, Grain Cradles, Brush Hooks, Knives, etc. Shoemakers and Butchers use them. 200,000 now in use. They are practical and durable, do perfect work. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" cuts steel as a Diamond cuts glass, and sells fast with agents at great profits; sample sent free if you enclose 18c. for a six months' subscription to COMFORT. Will send one dozen by express for $1.25, easily retails for 25c. each, more than one hundred per cent. profit. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us $1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us $1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE question of what kind of a gown to wear on the first long ocean voyage taken by a woman is a momentous one to that woman, and while the reader of this article may not now have in mind a trip to Europe, she doesn't know when it *may* be possible, and it is just as well to be fortified beforehand for an emergency of this kind. If she can ask the advice of some one who has already taken such a trip, she is in luck—if not, accept these few suggestions for what they are worth.

The knowing woman wears a natty tailor gown on board, and until the steamer has cast off and sailed away. Then she hies herself to her stateroom, removes this gown, packs it carefully into her steamer trunk, and dons a heavy cheviot suit consisting of a skirt and jacket, with a silk blouse. This should be a gown that can stand the spray and the sun, and should be worn all the time when on deck.

She also has in her stateroom a black silk skirt with one or two fancy silk waists, for evening wear, for there are many little entertainments on board an ocean liner.

Of course a mackintosh is indispensable. Most of all will be appreciated a warm, heavy ulster, or cloak with a hood attached, similar to that shown in our sketch—for if she expects to spend much time on deck she will find, even in summer, that a heavy garment of this kind is absolutely necessary, in mid-ocean, and whether promenading or lying in a steamer chair, will consider it her dearest possession. The hood protects the head and neck much more closely and comfortably than a hat possibly could, particularly while lying in a steamer chair. Then the coat, being long, can be pulled about the feet, in addition to the steamer rug—for both are necessary at times.

The feet are en evidence on a steamer's deck, therefore the footwear should be carefully attended to. A pair of pretty low shoes, and a pair of heavy, well-fitting boots, are all that is necessary, for deck wear.

Heavy gloves and plenty of veils are necessary—also a few simple remedies in case of sickness, so as not to be dependent upon the ship's doctor. These should include stimulants, smelling salts, etc., and a hot water bottle.

A bathrobe and three or four changes of underwear added to the foregoing, will be all the clothing necessary for steamer use—and these garments can all be packed into the steamer trunk, which is about all the luggage allowed in one's stateroom.

Just before landing, get into the natty tailor gown.

Of course these suggestions are intended for those who intend to stay abroad several months—but as a matter of fact, the trip, if only to last a few weeks, can be very comfortably accomplished with only a dress suit case and shawl strap for luggage. A lady told me recently of a trip which she and her husband took last year, with only this luggage. They were gone six weeks, traveling about continually and so could not be bothered with trunks. They stayed long enough in cities to have their underwear laundered, so were not obliged to take many changes; and right here let me say, that this can be accomplished in one day, abroad; if you send articles to be laundered in the morning they are brought to you again on the evening of the same day. The people I am speaking of didn't even take an umbrella with them, expecting to buy one if it was needed, instead of carrying one around all the time—but in the six weeks they were gone they didn't need an umbrella once. Of course when they came home they had more luggage, having bought some boxes for things they had bought—for what woman can resist a Paris hat?

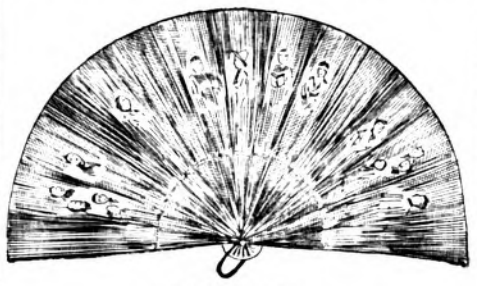


A COMFORTABLE STEAMER WRAP.

The monogram fan has been superseded by the portrait fan—and society women now have portraits of their friends painted on their fans in all sorts of attitudes and groups. Of course those women less favored by fortune would have to be content with photographs, carefully pasted onto a fan—and this makes a very attractive and often-times a highly-amusing possession.

Here is an idea which will interest the girl whose engagement has just been announced—that is, of course, if her friends get wind of this new fad—which is called a linen shower.

A luncheon is usually given by some married friend of the girl who has announced her engagement—and with the invitations to this luncheon is a suggestion that a piece of linen is to be brought for the girl in whose honor the luncheon is given. Consequently, each guest comes laden with something made of linen—a serviette, a centerpiece, half a dozen napkins with the initials embroidered in one corner, a pair of towels with embroidered initials, finger bowl doileys, tray doileys, in fact, anything that is linen and that will go to make up the necessary items in the new household. All of which are very acceptable, and show to the girl how interested her friends are in the coming event. A girl cannot have too many of these things, and when they are contributed by her friends, and embroidered by them, they gain an added value which increases as the years go by and these pieces of linen live on, while, perhaps, the givers have passed out of the life of the recipient; but she is always reminded of them as she handles the piece of embroidery done by each one, and she never forgets the one who remembered her at the happiest time of her whole life.



A PORTRAIT FAN.

ONE OF THE BRAVEST.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



COL. Richard Henry Savage—soldier, scientist, poet and novelist—has a wonderful and varied store of thrilling adventure and personal experience to draw upon for his fascinating and intensely dramatic novels. One feels instinctively, when reading them, that the writer is describing persons, places and incidents with which he is perfectly familiar.

Born in Utica, N. Y., in 1846, he went five years later with his parents to San Francisco, where he was a pupil in the first public school of that city. As a lad, in the mining districts of California, he saw much of the wild life of that time and had many adventures by flood and field. Graduating with honors at West Point, in 1868 he served, as staff officer, with Generals Halleck, Ord and Thomas, in the west; with General Stone, in Egypt; filled a number of important diplomatic positions abroad; engineered railroads and various works in Texas and California and has traveled pretty much all over the habitable globe with wide-open, observant eyes, making friends in many lands where his novels—translated into several languages—are eagerly read, recalling, to more than one, days gone by.

It is only about eight years since his first novel—"My Official Wife"—was published. It has been translated into a dozen languages; dramatized and played in many places. It was followed, in rapid succession, by some twenty-five others among them, "Prince Schamyl's Wooing," "The Masked Venus," "The Little Lady of Lagunitas," "In The Swim," "A Modern Corsair" and "Lost Countess Falka." "The White Lady of Kamanivatka," just out, is intensely interesting. In his New York home, surrounded by many souvenirs of his wanderings, Col. Savage was busy with his pen when the call to arms a year ago sent him as Colonel of the Second U. S. Vol. Engineers to Cuba. Suffering from malaria and exposure during the campaign, he returned to the States, ten months later, and joined his wife—a strikingly handsome and highly accomplished lady—in Washington where she had been, during the winter, the recipient of a great deal of social attention.

The men of Col. Savage's regiment will soon present a sword to him, none of the officers being allowed to participate in the gift.

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A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

About 4,000,000 false teeth are manufactured annually in the United States.

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The lantern lily of Survian, South America, has two sets of eyes, so as to catch the light from all directions. Its light is like that of an ordinary fire-fly, but is much more brilliant.

Some of the wooden churches of Norway, though over 700 years old, are still in a wonderful state of preservation. This is said to be due to the coats of tar with which they are painted frequently.

The test of a true Persian carpet is to drop a red-hot coal upon it. If the singed wool can then be all brushed away with the hand, leaving no trace of the burn, the carpet is of the best quality.

The material of which the shells of beetles is made is known as chittine. It is a material far more indestructible than steel. Only certain mineral acids affect it. Thus the shells of beetles have been preserved for ages imbedded in rocks, so we know to-day just how the insects looked. The largest beetle in the world comes from Venezuela. When full grown it weighs nearly half a pound.

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Give bust, waist measure and length of skirt. **Send $1.99 and 89 cents** for postage and we will send the suit by **mail prepaid** or if you prefer **send us nothing** but your order and we will send it to you C. O. D. free to examine. If it is exactly as represented and better value than you ever obtained before for the money, pay the agent **$1.98** and charges and the suit is yours.

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CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST 50 cents a year Sample copy free on application.

MRS. DeMORT, Box OZ, Toledo, O., sends valuable toilet recipes to ladies **FREE**

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

BICYCLE FREE OR CASH TO ANY ONE distributing my soaps, etc. I trust you. F. Parker, 277 E. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

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CURTIN JEWELRY CO., Attleboro, Mass.

BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS
FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin that are just what ladies want for crazy patch-work. We were fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special PANIC PACKAGES to any one sending 10c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, the Prize Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant piece of SILK PLUSH contain 36 square inches, together with five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; three 25c. lots for 65c., five for $1.00.



A Cute Foot-Rest FREE.

Useful Ornaments are sought after at all seasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of goods that are sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could never be obtained at a low price before (they sell for $1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out by machines in pretty colored durable goods, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be **welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California.** It comes in the shape of a handsome Spaniel *Bow-Wow*, lying down, size about 8x12 inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not in use by grandma or yourself or company as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is so life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, **57,396** have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find them great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start with.

BIG OFFER. We will send a sample postpaid to anyone sending 13c., for a three months' subscription to this paper. Two Rests and this paper 6 months for 25c.; five for 50c.; one dozen, $1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants 20c.; one Rest and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c.

Address COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 133, Augusta, Maine.

SOLID GOLD OPAL RING FREE.

We send you Jewelry on Sale. Stick Pins for Neckties, Scarfs and the like are more popular than ever. We were obliged to take a lot of goods from a large manufacturer and will send you an assortment of pins to sell as here illustrated, as the stock must be moved at once. We therefore trust you with the goods. The **Stick Pins** are made into cute shapes of keys, hearts, knives, pistols, etc., from **pure white pearl,** riveted on to gold plate and are the fastest selling novelties out at 10c. each. **The Ladies' Dress and Beauty Pins** are the most modern pattern and offered at Bargain rates so you can sell from two to a dozen in nearly every house at five cents each. They come assorted Roman and bright gold and silver plated, and have an unlimited use. The hair, the waist, the neck, the dress, and in fact they are now required in all parts of the clothing.



The Opal Ring FREE. You send us your full name and address and we send you the assortment as above to sell for five and ten cents each, you return the money $1.30 cash to us and we send you all charges paid one of these **Solid Gold Shell Opal Rings,** besides the large opal in centre there are two small **Rex Diamonds** on either side as shown in cut. This makes a most attractive setting and these Rings are sold to us under a **Three Years Guarantee.** The manufacturers' own warrant goes with each one, that it is Solid Gold Shell and warranted to wear for Three Years. Buying these Rings in thousand lots as we do we get them at a great bargain and they cannot be detected from a $12.00 Ring. If you desire an Emerald or Ruby instead of Opal we can send you either one. Send for the Jewelry outfit to-day. Address





ART JEWEL CO., Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

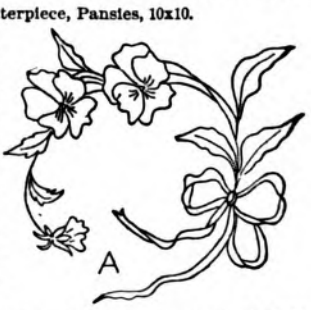
More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

Here's a June greeting to you all, my dears, and may the roses shower upon you and the sweet sunshine of the rarest days of June fall ever across your pathways through life.

And now to the letter-box, and first I lay hands on is from Violet of Monrovia, Ala., who wants to know about wearing of mourning by an eighteen year old girl. It is just as well for a girl of that age not to wear mourning at all, but if she does, the usual rule should be followed. The wearing of mourning is becoming in some localities to be a matter of the taste of the wearer.

Belle, Covington, Ky.—It is correct for a young man of seventeen to call a girl of fourteen Miss. (2) Never heard of a "jewlarky." Something like a Jaberwock, probably.

Fay, Montague, Texas.—Two girls of sixteen may chum together, but don't get too chummy. (2) Don't accept presents of jewelry from young men. (3) Always show your love letters to your mother. She is the safest person in the world for you. (4) Watches are worn, but more for use than ornament.

Hyacinth, Etoile, Ky.—There is no especial harm in paying a few cents for the alleged photograph of "your future husband or wife," but why not pick up any picture and save the money? It is just as likely to be the one.

Fay Green, Chatham, Ills.—When a girl is not engaged she may properly receive the attentions of as many men as will pay them to her. (2) It is not at all unusual for a sister to marry her dead sister's husband, and such marriages are quite as happy as any others.

Leota, Christopher, Ills.—It is proper for a lady and gentleman to shake hands when meeting, and a gentleman may assist a lady in removing her overshoes. Introduce the gentleman to the lady, always.

Swell, DeSoto, Ia.—It is a mean thing for a young man to let another girl answer a letter he has received from a lady, and as mean for her to answer it.

Queen of Hearts, Colorado Springs, Col.—By all means ask for an explanation. Never let a friendship be lost if explanation will save it.

Louella, Coffeetown, Ark.—Don't write to any young man unless you know him very well, and be careful what you write to any man. (2) Of two beaus drop the one you think the less of; either that or drop them both.

Merle, Bryan, Texas.—The best way to find out if a young man thinks a great deal of you, is to encourage the attention of some other young man. He cannot stand that very long.

Blue Eyes, Ringgold, La.—Put your poetry away for a year and in the mean time read all the good poetry you can find. Then read over your own and see the difference between then and now.

Bertha, Bolivar, Mo.—The only real language of the postage stamp is the profane language the cancelling clerk indulges in when you do not put it in the upper right hand corner. Always put it there.

Lonely Maid, Plattsburg.—You are worrying over something that nobody will ever know except yourself. Consider it as a mild little joke, just as other people do who are in the same fix, and you will be just as happy as if everything was as you wanted it. (2) Ask your druggist about depilatories.

Rebel, Pittsburg, Pa.—Break up your crowd. Eight of you are enough to scare away all the beaus in town.

Dew Drop, Modoc, Ills.—From eight to half-past ten o'clock is the proper duration of a social evening call for a man. (2) If you have money you may expect to be sought on account of it. (3) Sometimes a correspondence with an unknown person turns out well, but it is awfully risky. Don't do it.

B. B., Ballowe, Texas.—The Methodist Church by its rules does not allow dancing, but it does not always discipline its members who dance. (2) To change membership in churches you merely take a letter from that which you belong to to that which you wish to attach yourself to. (3) There is no market for poetry in this neighborhood.

Ruby, Harlemville, N. Y.—Write to any publisher in New York City, about book covers, enclosing stamp for reply.

Florence B., New York City.—Write the young man offering an explanation and if he declines to hear it, forget the whole thing.

Ette, Heather, Fla.—It is all right to accept presents from your cousin, but it isn't right to marry him. It is unlawful in most states.

Pauline, Jackson, Miss.—Young men should not call girls by their first names without a "Miss" before them, and girls shouldn't marry on short engagements.

Little Lew, Milwaukee, Wis.—Have an usher present the flowers to the graduate on the platform. (2) A Catholic and Protestant should not marry unless one or the other is willing to change churches. There is nothing wrong in that for there is but one Christ and one gospel, and they belong to all churches. Churches differ only in form, which is non-essential.

Circle, Chicago, Ills.—Don't marry for a while yet. So long as you are in doubt it is better to wait.

Paddie, Randall, Ills.—I do not think you committed any great impropriety in going with the young fellow to his home. Circumstances make a great difference in such matters.

Forget Me Not, Chicago, Ills.—The life of a nun is a hard one and should not be undertaken until one knows thoroughly what it means. Consult the priest in your neighborhood.

We Two, Franklin, Neb.—Stop loving the same man. It is silly for two girls to do that. Draw straws for him.

Jessamine, Long Prairie, Minn.—In view of the fact that you are in your father's store you might be allowed a little wider liberty in speaking to drummers without introduction, than otherwise, but be careful. (2) Don't give your card to a strange man you meet on a crowded train, unless he proves to you that he is entitled to your acquaintance. (3) You cannot translate and sell a foreign story if copyrighted. (4) If your friends knew the man who asked you to drive and to go to the opera it would be proper even on short acquaintance.

Trilby, Clinton, Iowa.—You are probably too indifferent and have a disagreeable and snippy manner that men don't like. Many young girls are that way at the beginning. Try to be agreeable.

Rosie W., Monongahela City, Pa.—Don't be in a hurry to marry without your parents' consent. Wait until you are twenty-one. You will never regret it.

Bonnylyn, Woodeaves, Pa.—Girls of sixteen will do very much better not to be having beaus for at least four or five years. This answers the questions of a half-dozen more cousins who have asked me.

A. M. M., Summerville, W. Va.—Rings are sometimes exchanged when the owners are not engaged. (2) There isn't room here to tell you all that would be suitable for a wedding dress. Consult your own taste and purse. Same for the second day dress. (3) Yes, a lady may give a man her picture, but she should know him well.

Hyacinth, Albion. Idaho.—Be careless of the young man's feelings and let him see by your regard for others that you do not care for him. Until he talks love to you you cannot do anything else.

Diana, Hesper, Miss.—Keep on declining to accept the young man's invitations and he will learn after awhile that you do not want to go with him and will quit. (2) Love is blind, and so long as you can see a deformity in the nice man's face, you do not love him. Take him as he is or let him go entirely.

Orange Blossom, New Pine Creek, Ore.—By no means go to your friends and tell them that you hear disagreeable things about them. Tell them only the pleasant things.

Leta and Lota, Litchfield, Ills.—It is difficult to suggest any line of work for you after you graduate. Usually girls who have to work, take anything they can get, and do better as they grow older and more experienced.

Priscilla, Pokagon, Mich.—You write a plain, good hand. Write to the principal of any Art School in Detroit about designing. Enclose postage.

Betsy, Corsicana, Texas.—It isn't wrong exactly for a girl to whistle and sing and be noisy about her own house, but it isn't as nice as if she were quieter. (2) Fifteen year old girls should wear dresses to shoe tops.

Lottie C., Pittsburg, Pa.—Under certain circumstances it is quite correct to ask a gentleman to be your escort to wherever you may want to go. (2) There is no reason why a lady should not conduct a dancing school.

Y., Charlottesville, Va.—I do not know of any one who buys old postage stamps. Consult some of the stamp dealers advertising in COMFORT.

Huldah, Bentley Springs, Md.—Seeing that you do not love either of the two men who love you, do not marry either. (2) Agate is the birth-stone for June.

Graduate, Batavia, N. Y.—Nothing can be prettier for a graduating gown than simple white, not low in the neck and not short in the sleeves. The "sweet girl graduate" isn't that when she appears in colors.

Black Eyes, Del Norte, Cal.—Don't speak to the young man till you are introduced to him. And don't worry about him. Let him worry about you.

Cousin Audrey, Akron, Ohio.—If there is no truth in the stories, you had better not do anything risky in order to prove they are false. Let the young man of bad reputation and good social position go his way and don't try to reform him by imperiling yourself and your happiness.

There is some mistake about the language of stamps, which cousins are sending to me for. Cousin Marie of Austin, Ills. please respond?

Gray Eyes, Elkton, Ky.—Ask your home physician for the address of one of the hospitals in Louisville, and write there for information concerning trained nurses and where to find a school of training. But do not do it, unless you are especially adapted to the work and are prepared to be on a strain night and day for the rest of your working life.

Wood Violet of Libertyville, Mo., informs Cousin Daisy of Newport, Ky., that she may find what she seeks by writing to John McAfee Sons, Parkville, Mo.

Now dears, all your questions are answered, either directly or through others, and I am going to say by, by, right quick, and send you all on your way rejoicing.

COUSIN MARION.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address,

MRS. C. B. MILLER, Box 71, Kokomo, Ind.

BEAUTIFUL PIECES FOR PATCH WORK.

Huge large squares such as our grandmothers used in a thousand ways for patchwork. We give away to any one who will send six cents for one package of these great squares. This is to introduce our mammoth illustrated catalogue into new homes where bargains are wanted and to obtain your address to send future favors to. Be sure to get one or more of these packages, we will send to your friend for an additional six cents. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Me.

The days of the week were divided from Saxon idolatry. The seven deities the Saxon most adored were, the Sun, the Moon, Tuisco, Moden, Thon Friga and Seater.

FITS

If you suffer from Epilepsy, Fits, Spasms, Spells, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus's Dance, etc., have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted my New Discovery, Epilepticide, will PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for a FREE Bottle and try it. It has CURED thousands where everything else failed. My 90-page Illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Permanently Cured," FREE. When writing, please give name, AGE and full address. All correspondence professionally confidential.

W. H. MAY, M. D.

May Laboratory, - 94 Pine St., New York City.

Always Mention COMFORT When You Write.

A NEW BLOOD CURE.

Free Trial Treatment Privately By Mail To All Who Suffer.

There has been discovered by the State Medical Institute, 755 Bass Block, Ft. Wayne, Ind., the most remarkable blood cure ever heard of. In hundreds of cases where the hair had fallen out and the whole skin was a mass of eruptions this wonderful specific has completely changed the whole body into a clean, perfect condition of physical health. Every railroad running into Ft. Wayne brings scores of sufferers seeking this new and marvelous cure and to enable those who cannot travel to realize what a truly marvelous work the Institute is accomplishing they will send free to every sufferer a free trial treatment so that everyone can cure themselves in the privacy of their own home. Do not hesitate to write at once and the free trial will be sent by mail sealed in a plain package.

THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

The Remarkable Achievements of Prof. Weltmer, the Great Healer Are Causing Universal Astonishment.



PROF. WELTMER.

The Nineteenth Century has been correctly termed the most important in scientific advancement and mental development, but no new discovery in any line is at this time attracting such widespread attention as Prof. Weltmer's Method of Magnetic Healing. In fact, the phenomenal cures made by him during the past two years have been so remarkably astounding and wonderful as to demand the attention of scientific and medical men all over the world. His method of treatment banishes disease as if by magic. Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer. Not only does this remarkable man cure hundreds in his Infirmary, but he possesses the ability to cure at a distance, and all cures by this method are equally permanent. Mrs. Jennie L. Linch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles. In less than 30 days she was cured. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered severely with female troubles and eczema and was entirely restored by Prof. Weltmer in a month. Thousands of other sufferers all over the land have been restored in the same manner. This is positively the only known cure for lost vitality and kindred ailments. Send for a copy of the Magnetic Journal a 40 page illustrated magazine, giving a long list of the most astounding cures ever performed. It is sent free.

TEACHES HIS ART TO OTHERS. Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making $10.00 to $50.00 per day. Taught by mail or personal instructions. Address, Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., The American School of Magnetic Healing.



BEAUTY PINS.

A Pair of Gold-Plated ones **FREE.**

These choice Ladies' pins are needed in every household, there are one thousand and one uses for them. No woman or child is now considered well dressed without two or more of these useful and ornamental pins. We are selling thousands of them and in order to introduce SUNSHINE into new homes and acquaint all with the necessity of this new style pin, will send one pair free to all who send 10c. for a three months' subscription to our great monthly. Great profits made selling them for Shirt waists and other spring and summer clothing. Buttons are being entirely done away with by this happy innovation. Send 10c. today and get your subscription and pair of Beauty pins free. Address

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

MARRIAGE paper mailed free. The Standard, Box 666, Baltimore, Md.

BED WETTING CURED. Box FREE. Mo. REMEDY Co., St. Louis, Mo.

CLAIRVOYANCE free. If sick, Send Now—your name, age, sex, lock of hair, and 2 stamps, to DR. D. HINKLY, X 10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

BED-WETTING CURED Sample Free. Dr. F. E. MAY, Bloomington, Ill.

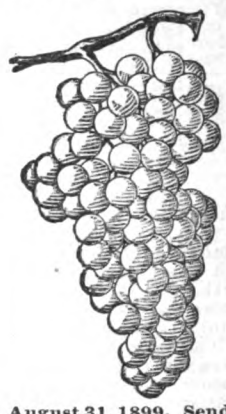
I USED IT

HANDSOME MUSTACHE OR LOVELY HAIR

Grown with our TURKISH HAIR GROWER in three weeks or money refunded. No more bald heads or smooth faces. We warrant every package and offer $1000 forfeit this is the quickest, surest, also harmless. Full treatment, 25c., 3 for 50c. Avoid dangerous imitations. TREMONT MANUF'G CO., E7, STATION A, BOSTON, MASS.

OPIUM HABIT AND MORPHINE Cured at home. Trial Free. No pain. Comp. Oxygen Ass'n, Fort Wayne, Ind.

$150.00 CASH PRIZE



You Can Win

this money if you can *correctly* count the number of Grapes visible in this bunch. Try it and see if you can win. If your count is correct we will give you $150.00. *We do not want any of your money* and we have only one condition which you can easily comply with in an hour's time. We will write you all about it as soon as your answer is received. If you can send us the exact number, we want to know who you are. **It looks easy. Try it!** You are only to count the number of Grapes which you can see. If more than one person sends the correct number, the money will be equally divided and will be paid **August 31, 1899. Send no money with your answer.** After you have counted the number of Grapes, write us at once, simply agreeing that if you win you will devote to our business a few hours of your time. *Remember, there is no other condition.* This is a truly liberal offer. **Try and win the money.** As soon as you have made your count, **send us your answer.** Who knows but that you will get the money? As soon as we receive your answer we will at once notify you if you have won. We hope that you will be successful. As we are going to give away the money whether you write us or not, you may as well try and win yourself. Address, **COLONIAL TRADING COMPANY, 103 Smith Building, Boston, Mass.**



GOLD WATCH OR RING FREE!!!

SEND NO MONEY.



We give a beautiful gold plated watch with a genuine American movement for selling only 20 packages of our wonderful new perfume at 10 cents per package. Each watch is perfectly timed, regulated and guaranteed for one year; just the same as an Elgin or Waltham. We give a gold filled ring, set with a genuine Zambezee diamond, guaranteed to wear two years, for selling only 10 packages at 10c. per package. These rings can't be told from $100.00 diamond rings even by experts, and can easily be traded for other valuable property. **Send no money.** Simply send your name and address on a postal card and we will mail you the perfume; also our large premium list of costly presents and hundreds of testimonials from pleased customers. When perfume is sold, send us the money and we will send you the present at once. We take perfume back if you can't sell it. **STANDARD PERFUME HOUSE, 369 Dearborn St., Dept. B1, Chicago, Ill.**

This $1 Alvah Camera Free...

A PRACTICAL WORKING CAMERA WITH OUTFIT OF MATERIALS FOR TAKING, MAKING AND DEVELOPING FIRST-CLASS PICTURES

Given Away Free on these Easy Conditions.

THIS CAMERA AND OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING—We ask no money for it, but will give it to you free as a present for a slight effort on your part to increase our circulation. **Send us 3 subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose with your letter the seventy-five (75) cents which will be payment in full for the subscriptions, and the camera and complete outfit, as here illustrated and described, will be sent you by mail or express** (at our option) **prepaid. All charges paid by us.**



THE ALVAH CAMERA Takes Photographs, Landscapes—in fact anything—making a fine 2x2 picture, as good as many of the high-priced cameras. THE ALVAH comes with a complete outfit securely packed as follows—so that you are not compelled to buy an expensive lot of materials before you can take and develop pictures:

1 ALVAH CAMERA 1 PACKAGE HYPO 1 DEVELOPING TRAY 1 TONING TRAY
1 BOX DRY PLATES 1 PRINTING BACK 1 PACKAGE DEVELOPER 1 INSTRUCTION BOOK
1 PACKAGE SILVER PAPER 1 PACKAGE FIXING POWDER 1 PACKAGE RUBY PAPER

YOU CAN EASILY GET THREE SUBSCRIBERS. In these hard times many would feel reluctant about paying 50 or 75 cents or $1.00 for a year's subscription to our paper, although there is no question that it is well worth that amount to anyone; but hardly any person will hesitate a moment over the trifling sum of **25 CENTS** when it will purchase **A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to so valuable and entertaining a paper as COMFORT.** At this very low price you need only to show a sample copy of our paper and you will secure three and even more subscribers right in your immediate neighborhood. **Every member of the family is interested in COMFORT.**

HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS WONDERFUL OFFER. We know that **COMFORT** is the **best paper of its kind published, and we want to introduce it into every household in the country.** We intend to more than double our subscription list in 1899 and take this unique and liberal method of doing it. **Everyone now a days is interested in photography.** Haven't you often wanted a camera to take the pictures of your friends and loved ones and the familiar scenes about the house? With the **ALVAH** you can do this, and we give you the opportunity of obtaining this up-to-date **CAMERA FREE OF CHARGE.** All you need to do is to send us three subscriptions to **COMFORT,** enclose the 75 cents payment for same and the **CAMERA AND OUTFIT will be sent to you prepaid.**

THE ALVAH CAMERA retails regularly at **$1.00,** and is as good as any of the cameras that are sold at $1.00 without the developing outfit. But we have made arrangements with one of **the largest camera manufacturers in the United States** to supply us with these cameras, at a figure which is a mere trifle above the net cost of the camera to the manufacturer **We give our readers the benefit of our advantageous contract.**

THE ALVAH CAMERA USES REGULAR GLASS PLATES (not films). **It comes with all the necessary articles and materials** and everything is explained in the instruction book, **"HOW TO MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS,"**

FOR 55 CENTS CASH (postage stamps taken) **we will send the ALVAH CAMERA AND OUTFIT to any address prepaid, together with COMFORT, for one year.** We make this offer to give everyone a chance. If it is not convenient for you to secure three subscribers **send us 55 cents and get the camera and outfit and our splendid paper for a full year.**

ANYONE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER. If you are already a subscriber send us the 55 cents and we will extend your subscription one year from the date your present subscription expires, besides sending you the entire camera and outfit. **Address**

(Subscription Dept.) COMFORT, Augusta, Me.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	**" " third " " "**	**2.00**
4th.	**" " fourth " " "**	**1.50**
5th.	**" " fifth " " "**	**1.00**

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Alfred Fisher,	**$3.00**
C. D. Jones,	**2.50**
Rose S. Browne,	**2.00**
J. M. Baltimore,	**1.50**
T. S. Allison,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

"Now is the winter of our discontent Made glorious summer;" and we are all in tune, after the long, dreary winter of storms, blizzards and intense cold which held the whole land, from Maine to Florida, in its icy thrall for so many months, to cry with real earnestness "Welcome, thrice welcome, June." As we throw ourselves under the shade of some big, leafy tree to read our June number of COMFORT we can hardly realize that so little time ago we were suffering from intense cold and storm; but we enjoy our summer weather all the more by contrast with the severity of the past winter.

Our first letter this month tells us a little of the early life of the eminent author who has furnished so much entertaining reading for our amusement in the long, warm summer days.

"The accompanying picture is an exact representation of the building in which Mark Twain, the celebrated humorist, was born. It is located in Florida, Mo., and although it is over half a century old, it will doubtless continue to stand for many years—an object of much curiosity and veneration to the admirers of the genius who was born there, and who, from such an humble birthplace, at last attained so high a position among the writers of the present day. Mark Twain was yet a small boy when the Clemens family moved from the old house and went to Hannibal, Mo., where Mr. Clemens, his father, engaged in the grocery business.

"The vicinity in which the great humorist passed his early life is well represented in his various literary productions; and it cannot be doubted but that his peculiar surroundings afforded him excellent opportunities to gather the fundamental incidents and characters, which, perhaps somewhat changed from the original to suit his own views or fancy, were afterwards described in such an interesting manner as to give the writer great fame, and cause his name to become well known in almost every family.

"For instance, an extensive cavern called the 'Hannibal Cave' is the one described in 'Tom Sawyer.' This wonderful production of nature, located about two miles below Hannibal and close to the Mississippi river, has ever been a great curiosity, and many people constantly visit it to witness the great variety of queer things in its lofty passages and rooms. The extreme limits of this cave have never been discovered; and the many mysterious channels, branching from the main passage, are well calculated to confuse any one who is not well acquainted with the cave.

"Again, an eccentric man named William Muldrow, who attempted to establish a city on the Mississippi a short distance above Hannibal, but whose plans came to naught, because, chiefly, the river in times of high water completely flooded the entire site of his town, is said to have been the original of Mark Twain's amusing character called Colonel Mulberry Sellers. Then, too, steamboats were numerous on the Mississippi river; Mark Twain travelled much on these boats and mingled freely with the boatmen. In fact, it is said that he learned to be a pilot under the instructions of an old river veteran. Hence it was that in his book concerning life on the Mississippi he was enabled to describe everything so well, and so true to nature.

"There are numerous aged men who claim to have known Mark Twain very well when he was a boy. These men tell many amusing stories concerning the humorist. If he really did have all the friends who claim to have been intimate with him, the number of his young companions was certainly very large; if all the anecdotes told of him are true, the experiences he underwent were many and various. There are many curiously carved walking canes in existence which their owners claim were cut from the trees which stood in front of the house where Mark Twain was born; but as the



MARK TWAIN'S BIRTHPLACE.

same number of trees are still standing which were there originally, these statements are certainly incorrect.

"The parents of Mark Twain, and two of his brothers and a sister, now lie buried in a cemetery near Hannibal; a short time ago the great writer had a monument erected at each grave."

ALFRED FISHER, Hannibal, Mo.

Our old friend, Alice Teasdall formerly of Texas, now writes me a nice letter from Trilla, Ill., to which place she has removed. We are glad to hear from her again.

Our cousin from the far west writes us a cool and refreshing letter on Alaska as a summer camping ground, which may induce some of you to turn your steps thitherward for your summer vacation trip. She says:

"Here is a view of Alaska for cousins who are not gold seekers. At the beginning of summer the new comer to Tacoma is divided in his mind between two vacation trips. Shall he spend a few weeks in the charming valleys about Mt. Tacoma or shall he journey by sea to the wonderful northern country of Alaska? It is the latter trip that I shall try to describe. The steamers which leave Tacoma for the north are large and comfortable and well suited for their battles with the ice, which they often encounter. It is not only to gold seekers that Alaska hath charms, for all nature lovers revel in the wonders and beauties of this younger child of our great republic.

"Steaming up the coast our craft makes its way through the innumerable islands which fringe the shore, to Fort Wrangel on the 'pan handle' of Alaska, and soon after leaving this we come in sight of the most wonderful of all the Alaskan views. It is the great Muir Glacier, flowing down from its lofty heights in the mountains and slowly dropping its great bergs into the sea. It is thus that icebergs are made. The great frozen river, like a swirling torrent caught in the midst of its leap and changed to glittering solid, creeps like a serpent around the mountains' peaks and plunges into the sea, where, the support of its bed being lost, great masses break off with a thunderous roar and float off with the tide to be gradually melted as they reach the warmer latitudes of the south.

"Our steamer skirts the edge of the glacier. Above us rises the pure white wall of solid ice hundreds of feet high, each crystal reflecting the sunlight and forming about itself a fringe of rainbow light. It is a time when one appreciates the insignificance of humanity. All this beauty is enhanced by the glory of the midnight sun which sweeps around the horizon, disappearing from view for only a few hours in the twenty-four, and leaving behind it a strange wierd glow which is neither day nor night. The aurora borealis is magnificent,



ICE FLOES IN NORTHERN PACIFIC.

and as its great streamers sweep up over the mountains in their majestic grandeur, one is awed into silence by the might of Nature.

C. D. JONES, Tacoma, Washington.

Here is a handful of nice letters from some of the younger cousins, bright little masters and misses who by-and-by are going to take their places among the older and successful writers. The first one, Kermiller Moss of Clinton, Miss., says "I am nine years old. I take the COMFORT, and like very much to read the letters to Aunt Minerva. They are very interesting." Grace Futon of Paris, Pa., sends me a very well-written account of George Washington, and Anna H. Conyer, of Pleyto, Cal. writes interestingly of the lynx; but, you see, girls, what we want on our page is accounts of things which you have seen and know of yourselves, and not what you have read about. Do you see the difference? Elsie Smith of New Rochester, Ohio, has a long and carefully written description of volcanoes, which I cannot use for the very same reason. Too bad, isn't it! But read the next letter on "Swapping day in Estanaulee," and you will see what I mean, I am sure.

"On the first Monday of every third month Court convenes in Estanaulee (and other 'County seats' in Tennessee) when justice is dispensed, with more or less impartiality, to the denizens of town and country. Court days are also 'swapping days,' and the attractions of the temple of justice are feeble in comparison with those of the swapping ground, a vacant lot of an acre or more, furnished with rows of posts supplied with iron rings, to which the swapping stock is hitched.

"Crowds of men, white and black, on horses and mules, stream into town along the various highways, congregate at the jockey lot, and the fun commences. Let us saunter around among them to see what we shall see and hear. We can only do so in imagination, for ladies seldom come down town on Court days, although southern chivalry is out in full force among these rough-looking men and a lady, should she venture into the maze of stamping horses, braying mules and bantering men would be accorded unbounded respect. Such a motley crowd! Such an aggregation of bony, aged animals! Kipling's line—'A rag and a bone and a hank of hair' fully describes both saddle and steed in most cases, and a veterinary student could learn all there was to know about the bony structure of his future equine patients without the trouble of dissecting them.

"The swapping talk is carried on in quiet tones, and there is no bustle or confusion, except when some unhappy mule raises his shrill voice, not tempered by the softness of the climate, in loud remonstrance against his miserable lot in life; or when, from too close a proximity, two fractious Rosinantes fight a duel with their hind feet. Let us question this swapper in shirt-sleeves and jeans trousers stained with the red soil of iron-filled hills.

"'What can we buy a horse for?' we ask. He hastily slips a bottle in his pocket and turns to face us.

"'Well, fum ninety cents to two hundred dollars, mum—hold on thar, Bill—swap ye this hoss fur yer mule, and give ye a drink ter boot! Beg yer pardon, mum, thought yer was gone!'

"Another—'Here, you feller with the white filly! Trade yer anything I've got 'ceptin' my wife, ef yer'll boot me enough.'

"But the bottles have circulated until the swappers have become either over-jolly or quarrelsome, so we leave them to get rich off of each other in this one branch of business in which cheating is not only allowed by all but openly commended or made a matter of jest.

"To illustrate one rule of the swappers, I knew a girl who after her father's death carried on the home plantation a year or two. She decided to get rid of a superannuated horse on the farm, and bade one of her hired men take it to town on Court day and trade it off. But the poor faithful old horse was hardly out of sight when she repented of her ingratitude. When the man returned with a strange steed she ordered him to go back and bring home the old denizen of the family stables. He refused, saying: 'Can't do it, Miss—ef I wus to rue back they wouldn't never trade with me no more!'

"Imperiously she again commanded the man to bring back the old horse. He refused, saying all the rules of the swappers forbade such a proceeding. An ex-slave standing by, in whom the instinct of obedience was inborn, vaulted on the back of the unwelcome stranger, loped away and soon returned with his young mistress' faithful old horse which she never 'swapped' again."

ROSE S. BROWNE, Athens, Tenn.

Among western farmers the rabbit has become a nuisance, a thing to be despised and exterminated as rapidly as possible; but who can read the following story of mother love and mother courage, and not feel a thrill of admiration and respect for the brave little rabbit who so courageously fought for her little ones!

"The courage of a mother in defending her offspring is truly grand and wonderful. At this time fear is unknown, and the parent rushes on to what would seem to be certain destruction. In defense of her nest the sparrow will attack the hawk, and the puny wren will pounce upon the cat; but who would have thought that the rabbit—that timid, innocent little creature—would show fight under any circumstances! But so great is mother-love that even Bunny grows bold when her little ones are in danger.

"Three years ago, while driving across a tract of prairie in northwest Nebraska, I witnessed a scene that, to me, was indeed surprising. On a slight elevation about fifteen rods in front of me I saw a rabbit, a little 'cotton tail,' jumping about and acting so queerly that I determined to find out the cause of such odd performances.

"On going up nearer the spot I discovered that bunny was valiantly battling with a large 'bull snake.' In the grass close by was a form, or nest, of young rabbits which the snake was trying to reach in order to secure a dainty dinner. But an unexpected obstacle had appeared in the way, and his snakeship was baffled.

The rabbit would run up, and, seizing the snake with her teeth, she would endeavor to pick it up and shake it as a dog would have done; but her strength was not sufficient for this and she could only raise a part of it from the ground at one time. Then bunny would loosen her hold, and, jumping behind the snake, she would grasp it by the tail and drag it backwards away from the nest where her dear little ones were sleeping in fancied security. In this way she worried and punished the snake until it turned and ran off through the grass.

"When the battle was ended I was standing close by the nearly exhausted rabbit, but she seemed utterly indifferent to my presence. Blood was trickling from her ears and nose where the snake had bitten her, but as this snake is not poisonous I trust that this brave little rabbit is still running to and fro over that vast prairie.

T. L. ALLISON, Cushing, Iowa.

Now let us take another summer trip to a "cool place."

"Soaring aloft to the dizzy altitude of 14,444 feet above sea-level, stands Mount Ranier, one of the snow-clad monarchs of the Cascade Range of the Pacific coast. This range stretches from the northern boundary of California to the southern boundary of British Columbia, a distance of six hundred miles, in which there are more great snow peaks than in almost any other mountain range of equal length in the world. Mounts Baker, Ranier, Adams, Jefferson, St. Helens, Hood, The Three Sisters, Thielson, Scott and Pitt are all crowned with eternal snows, and among them all Mount Ranier, for grandeur, altitude and isolation is conceded to be the 'King Peak.'

"This grand mountain is located in the heart of the Cascades, about seventy miles from the city of Tacoma, Washington, and is plainly visible for a radius of one hundred miles or more, rising from a mass of timber-clad mountains, and soaring upward until its glittering summit seems to pierce the very heavens. For many years it was considered impossible to reach its summit, but during the last ten years large numbers of persons have made the ascent. This is attended with great labor and peril. Yawning chasms, moraines, glaciers, beetling cliffs and precipices, and mountains of snow and ice must be encountered before the summit can be reached; but a magnificent view rewards the successful climber. Four great snow peaks, Mounts Baker, St. Helens, Adams and Hood, rear themselves around him, while a large number of streams find a source around the base of Mount Ranier, and flow in every direction.

"With the single exception of Mount Shasta,



MT. RANIER.

Mount Ranier is the loftiest snow peak on the Pacific Coast. Mount Shasta, according to accurate Government estimates, measuring only a few feet more than this."

J. M. BALTIMORE, Spokane, Washington.

Hugh O. Bates, of Kearney, Neb., is another of the younger cousins who has written me a long letter on old Fort Kearney. Hugh has chosen a very interesting subject, but his letter is so long I could not use it and I found it impossible to condense it.

Lottie E. Held, of Princeton, Maine, writes a pleasant letter on Mammoth Cave, but as I have recently published a letter on this subject I could not use this.

Many thanks to Docia E. Bond of Wiggins, Miss., and Lawson Tatum, of Green Pond, Alabama, for letters received.

And now I have used all my space, so goodby for another month.

AUNT MINERVA.

FREE YOU CAN EARN A **BICYCLE.**



A '99 Beauty for a little work. Hundreds have secured their wheels in this way. Send $1.00 for outfit, 1000 circulars and rubber stamp; which will be refunded on first order. Easiest plan yet. You are sure of success. 500 circulars 50c. One sale insures some premium. Address the old reliable cycle house. BROWN-LEWIS CO., Dept. D6, 293 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.



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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.

THE STRAWBERRY is with those of us who live in New England and we herewith return thanks for same, which is much enjoyed by the large majority of mortals who have to eat to live.

Now there are shortcakes, and shortcakes, just as there are women and women—and while all may be good, they likewise may differ in glory, also in attractiveness.

Some people prefer a sweetened shortcake, similar to cake—but the sugar added to the strawberries is sweetness enough for most people and a paste made similar to that for cream of tartar biscuit is the regular old-fashioned shortcake. A good recipe for this is as follows:

Hull and wash two baskets of berries. Add to them a cup and a half of granulated sugar and set in a warm place.

Sift together a cup and a half of pastry flour, half a cup of cornstarch, half a teaspoon salt and four teapooniuls baking powder. (Of course *level* measurements are used, in all our recipes.) With the tips of the fingers work into the foregoing ingredients one-fourth cup butter; add gradually one cup milk and mix to a soft dough. Take out onto a floured board and knead lightly. Divide into two parts, pat and roll out each to fit a round baking pan. Bake in a quick oven about twenty minutes. Cut open each cake, spread with butter, and when it is melted, add the strawberries, which should be warm and slightly crushed. If a smaller shortcake is desired, make it of only one-half this recipe and of the rest make small biscuits. Garnish shortcake with whipped cream and some of the whole strawberries, if desired, or serve with it thick cream and sugar, which is much nicer, we think. Individual shortcakes are much easier to serve, and may be made in the form of a large biscuit, cut open and buttered and then garnished with the crushed and whole strawberries and whipped cream, as the large one is, if this is preferred. A large shortcake is an exceedingly awkward thing to serve, for the juice is very likely to accumulate as the pieces are cut, and overflow the plate, and in various ways embarrass the server.

Strawberry pies are delicious, also strawberry mousse, frappe, and ice. In making berry pies it is well not to use a top crust, but to bar across the filling with narrow strips of the paste, which makes a more attractive pie to look at, and there is no danger of a heavy top crust from the steam arising from the cooking of the berries between two crusts.

STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM.

Hull, wash and drain one quart berries and press through a sieve; add the juice of two oranges and one lemon, and one cup of sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved, then freeze to a mush. Add one cup of thick cream beaten until stiff and then complete the freezing.

Cottage pudding with strawberry sauce is delicious. For the sauce take a basket of ripe berries and press them through a ricer. Boil together three-fourths of a cup of sugar and half cup of water ten minutes; cool and add the strawberry pulp.

Speaking of frappe, those who live in the country and each year make wine from grapes, will be glad to know of a good recipe for making grape juice frappe. For this, boil one quart of boiling water and two cups of sugar ten minutes. Strain into the can of a freezer, and when cold add a pint and a half of grape juice and the juice of two lemons. Pack in ice and salt, using equal portions of each. When the mixture is half frozen remove the dasher and set aside until time to serve. Serve in sherbet glasses.

We illustrate a canape of chicken and asparagus, and give some recipes for various kinds of canape.

Cut slices of bread one-fourth of an inch



GRAPE JUICE FRAPPE.

thick, and cut off the crusts, shaping the soft part like a diamond; let stand in the oven until crisp, on a buttered tin. When cold, spread with butter and then with cold chicken, finely chopped or sliced; then add a thin slice of pickled tongue, and above this arrange four asparagus points, with mayonnaise dressing and capers. Thoroughly chill before serving.

CHEESE CANAPES.

Cut thinly-sliced bread into strips one inch wide and three inches long; fry a delicate brown in butter, grate cheese over them and add a little paprika. Put them into the oven and leave them until the cheese has melted. Serve hot.

OYSTER CANAPES.

Chop a dozen oysters and put them into a saucepan with a teaspoonful of finely-grated bread crumbs, a piece of butter the size of a walnut and a half cup of thick cream. Season with salt and pepper, and stir over a fire until it boils. Pour this mixture over thinly sliced buttered bread, placed on a hot platter.

ORANGE RINGS.

To three eggs slightly beaten add one-half cup sugar, five tablespoons melted butter and the grated rind of one orange. Add enough flour to make a soft dough. Roll out to one-half inch in thickness and cut in rings with a doughnut cutter and fry in deep fat; drain on brown paper and pour orange juice over the rings while hot.

If any housekeeper believes that the meat from which stock is made cannot be made into an appetizing dish, she should try the following method of preparing it: Cut the meat into suitable pieces, rejecting all fat and bone, but adding the gristle, which will be deliciously tender and cut into pieces about a half-inch in length. Fry in a spider with a tablespoonfuls of onion minced. Add six peppers, one clove, a tablespoonful of boiled ham, chopped fine; a bay leaf, a sprig of thyme, a blade of soup celery, cut fine, and two sprigs of parsley. When the butter is well browned add two tablespoonfuls of flour, and let it brown thoroughly. Add then a quart of canned tomatoes, and let the sauce simmer a little. Pour in a quart of rich jellied stock. Let the sauce boil slowly for half an hour, then strain through a puree sieve. Warm up a pint of the prepared meat in this sauce. Let the meat simmer about five minutes to become permeated with the flavor. The remainder of the tomato sauce may be set aside for any purpose needed; it will keep in a cold place for several weeks in winter.

Remains of a roast of lamb or mutton can be served in a variety of dainty ways. For in-



CHICKEN CANAPE.

stance, cut the cold meat in long, thin slices and heat them in a buttered baking dish with wine, preferably sherry, and a seasoning of salt, pepper and a little mustard. Serve very hot with a garnish of fried tomatoes or of mushrooms and a highly-seasoned tomato sauce. Or the slices may be well heated and served with a very rich white sauce and fried croutons of bread thickly spread with anchovy butter. Cold lamb chops are nice if trimmed, spread thickly with a puree of onions, dipped in egg and bread crumbs and fried; then garnished with parsley and served with tomato sauce.

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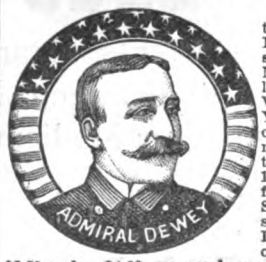
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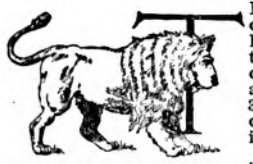
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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE moon completes another circuit around the heavens and overtakes the Sun, forming what is called the "New Moon," at about 24 minutes past 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th of July, Washington Time.

The conjunction occurs in the 8th house of the figure. The sign Scorpio is on the eastern horizon and Mars, its ruler, is in the 10th house. Mercury is in the 9th in trine with Herschel in the 1st house; Venus and Neptune are on the cusp of the 8th and in trine with Jupiter on the 12th, and Saturn is near the 2nd cusp just inside the 1st house.

Mars is "lord of the figure" and in the Midheaven, strong. This indicates predominance of a military spirit and that the war forces of the government shall overcome their enemies; though it likewise presages rebelliousness among the laboring mechanical classes, conducive to strikes and disorderly demonstrations in sections, which may call for the interposition of the military to suppress violence. There is danger of heavier fire losses than usual and harm to human beings in certain parts of the country, and it is apprehended that the city of Boston will be one among other localities likely to contribute more than her share to the aggregate of such harm. Mars so prominently placed presages some unusual criticism of executive authorities over what is styled the severity or rigidity of measures adopted in dealing with the enemies of the nation and with those engaged in resisting the constituted authorities. Some public meetings of over-zealous "political reformers" or mischievous mal-contents are indicated, condemning the government authorities and seeking to promote conflict and discord in Administration ranks.

The lunation occurring in the 8th house and in the ruling sign of New York City points to the serious misfortune, if nothing worse, to some person or persons prominent there in the political councils of the country; the dethroning of principal authorities in political circles or some marked diminution or restriction of power of such authorities.

Mercury in the 9th, having a favorable aspect with Herschel, indicates an extraordinary amount of foreign travel in July; unusual agitation in church affairs following close upon the heels of some adverse development or fatality high in church ranks; some great discovery in the scientific world, and advantages gained to the nation through diplomatic agencies in international or commercial matters.

All the malefics in the angles, involving Venus on the 8th house, renders more dangerous than usual all bilious disorders; quickening liver and bowel troubles and cautioning the sanitary authorities to guard vigilantly against fevers of typhoid or malarial and infectious character, which unless guarded against would become epidemic, especially in southern and southeastern regions. These conditions introduce complications of like nature into other physical disorders and our medical brethren should be watchful in such respects that serious mischief does not come. The days around the 17th of July caution our railroads against a dangerous liability to accidents on the rail and from fires and explosions. Persons born about the 8th of March or June, 12th of September, or 10th of December, of past years, should avoid traveling in the middle days of July or of exposing themselves in places of danger. The postal service of the country seems to suffer some detriment or has some embarrassment in this month. There will be some violent atmospheric phenomena, heavy lightning, and probably some earth tremors around the middle days of the month.

Mars in Virgo is bad for Turkey, Paris and the West Indies. Warlike activity, large fires and bad fevers are apprehended as a result in those regions. Spain contends against disorderly or rebellious demonstrations in the home dominions and her citizens in southern climes suffer unusual detriment from diseases of an infectious character.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JULY, 1899.

JULY 1—Saturday. Do not invest thy money in merchandise for trade and part with thy means very sparingly; put a bridle on thy tongue and do not engage in controversies or lawsuits, and in such matters already begun, adverse action and erroneous decisions are likely in this day; let the jurist distrust his judgment in the forenoon and postpone decisions until later in the month. To the fair sex in the pursuit of pleasure the influences are ominous, and many of them meet strange and unfortunate experiences and encounter mischievous conditions for health. Proprietors of theaters and places of amusement should beware of making engagements on this day and should in these passing days be on the alert against injury to their interests. Unusual money losses occur at this time through speculation in stocks. Look out for declines.

2—Sunday. A favorable Sabbath day, though inclining more to active recreation than to sober contemplation or reflection.

3—Monday. The morning hours are unusually depressing and not promising of advantage from enterprises then begun. Great care should be exercised in the use of the pen; sign no deeds or writings, and commercial men and bankers should give more than ordinary scrutiny to notes, checks and accounts; deception and errors are likely under prevailing conditions in monetary transactions; the afternoon and evening are by far the better parts of the day, especially for any of the recreative or pleasurable engagements, or literary work of the polite kind.

4—Tuesday. Independence Day. The early and late hours of this day are the poorest and in them it will be strange if some unusually violent and fatal catastrophe does not occur in our country; conditions are such that more than the usual harm from explosives, fires, or falling debris is apprehended; let all in charge of pyrotechnic exhibitions see that platforms are secure and that explosives are more carefully handled than usual. Combustion is quickened and fires are more fierce and destructive at such times. Let all precautions be taken, and in all cases of fire, let those in places of danger be careful of falling walls and not to jump or otherwise needlessly invite bodily injuries.

5—Wednesday. Defer any very important business until after the noon hour, especially if the same pertains to the agricultural pursuits or the dealings in or improvement of lands or houses; but bend every energy to the pursuit of business after the mid-day, dealing especially with persons in the elegant callings or those concerned with artistic or decorative wares or wearing apparel; musical merchandise, or dramatic appurtenances.

6—Thursday. One of the best days of the month; be up with the sun and urge business vigorously throughout the day; buy goods to sell again; deal with the banker and all persons of wealth and distinction. REGULUS advises his friends to push all honorable transactions to the utmost, which if now begun have more than the ordinary assurances of success, unless the individual nativity is radically very evil at this time.

7—Friday. Mixed conditions prevail here, such as give hinderances or dragging experiences in matters here inaugurated, though the day encourages vigorous prosecution of enterprises already in hand; have no dealings with usurers or money lenders and make no beginning in any venture that is not wholly open and above-board.

8—Saturday. As the sun leaves the eastern horizon, let all honorable pursuits be pushed with constantly increasing vigor, being watchful of thy means and seeing that generous impulses and mere gratifications of desire do not override good judgment in the afternoon; the forenoon is recommended for special efforts of a literary character and for commercial contracts and enterprises.

9—Sunday. The extemporaneous religious discourse of the day will be likely to disclose unusual eccentricity of ideas and strange peculiarities of expression; the tongue will be nimble and language flowery.

10—Monday. One of the excellent days of the month, which REGULUS recommends to his friends for the inauguration of their most important ventures in life, especially if they pertain to real estate matters; dealing with plumbers, plasterers, glaziers, gardeners, farmers, contractors and builders and the classes generally who are engaged in the laborious and dirty avocations; make purchases of goods for trade; open new stores, effect monetary engagements; solicit pecuniary benefits and deal with banks and wealthy persons.

11—Tuesday. Give preference to the first half of the day for the most vigorous prosecution of business, having financial dealings in regularly established business and with persons engaged in business pertaining to the gratifications and pleasures of life, wearing apparel and all furnishings and decorations; but have caution as the noon and afternoon hours are passing, avoiding important engagements with manufacturers, mechanics, and officers of large corporations or government authorities.

12—Wednesday. Evil. Avoid rashness of word or act and be not easily moved to wrath; the day is peculiarly dangerous for surgical operations, especially if performed upon the hands, arms, legs, or the abdominal regions; beware of fires, explosions, scalds and fractures. The middle days of this month are peculiarly mischievous in promoting bad fires and hurts by machinery or from falling walls or debris, and it is apprehended that the city of Boston may suffer particularly at such times more severely than at others from fires and accidents, and persons are cautioned to be unusually careful in the respects indicated while the middle days of the month are being passed, especially about the 12th, 17th to 20th, 25th and 26th. The 12th generally cannot be recommended for any important move of an initiative character.

13—Thursday. Use the early part of the day for asking favors of persons in authority and for crowding all the business engagements; less dependence can be placed upon the noon hours for any great undertaking.

14—Friday. Do not begin ventures concerned with fancy, artistic or decorative goods in the early hours of the day, but as the day advances enter with vigor upon thy several enterprises, initiating new work, making purchases for trade and forwarding all matters to the utmost; particular efforts may be directed towards real estate negotiations and the preparation and execution of writings pertaining to houses, mines, trust estates, and the estates of deceased persons.

15—Saturday. A very favorable day, inviting travel, business activity and enterprise. REGULUS urges this forenoon as a very favorable time for making new beginnings; the time is especially fortunate for the prosecution of literary and scientific pursuits; dealings with book publishers, printers and mathematicians; sign deeds, engage servants, remove and vigorously push all general business; seek no favor in the afternoon from thy superior.

16—Sunday. An excellent day for all the purposes for w ich it is appropriate. The day conduces to special enjoyment of the elegant in literature and art and renders courtesies between the sexes particularly agreeable.

17—Monday. This day is full of energy and enterprise and invites activity in nearly all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travelers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and engage with manufacturers; exercise caution in handling combustibles and in the care of fire as the night hours advance, for the times are mischievous for fires and accidents.

18—Tuesday. The middle hours of this day are the best and should be improved for forwarding all the undertakings; do not seek advantages from dealings with very aged persons in the evening when no favor should be expected from railway officials.

19—Wednesday. The afternoon is the best part of this day, especially for the artistic and elegant pursuits, but the late hours are evil and caution thee not to change thy residence or travel unnecessarily; bear in mind the admonition to be watchful against fires, explosions, and all kinds of accidents coming from excitement or panic.

20—Thursday. Arise with the sun and give all thine energies to business; pursue literary avocations, travel, engage servants, do important correspondence, bargain for houses and lands and deal with the intellectual classes, booksellers, printers and publishers; deal with bankers, judges and persons of wealth and prominence; buy goods for trade, open new goods, and make beginnings generally.

21—Friday. Make no engagement towards wedlock nor expect much success in the elegant pursuits or from dealings in dry goods or fancy or ornamental wares; do not make beginnings in any matter of importance either in the literary pursuits or in real estate connections.

22—Saturday. Begin early and urge all the mechanical pursuits; experiment in chemistry; deal with military men, druggists, bakers, tailors, barbers, carpenters, machinists and engineers; the afternoon is mischievous in creating shrinkages of the purse and ought not to be taken for any financial negotiation nor for soliciting favors from persons of prominence in official life.

23—Sunday. There is but little of promise for this day, especially of assistance to the clergy, those connected with religion, or for matters of an ecclesiastical nature; have patience with thy surroundings in the morning. Choose the afternoon and evening for mental and literary efforts and for engaging the mind with literature of character and force.

24—Monday. Give preference to the early morning and late afternoon hours for transactions of a pecuniary character, but have care in the use of the pen during the middle hours of the day, being sure not to sign any agreement then as to books or publications, and careful not to make mistakes in estimates, accounts or correspondence.

25—Tuesday. The middle hours of the day are the best and are to be given preference for the general transactions of the day; bridle the tongue in the morning and avoid everything in the nature of a controversy; be watchful of the purse in the afternoon and evening when also thou shouldest shun all dealings concerned with houses and lands or with agricultural products or mining productions.

26—Wednesday. On this day do thou beware of litigation and contentions, for this is a day of strife and discord; be very careful if compelled to be about machinery or electrical apparatus and in the handling of chemicals, fire-arms, hot liquids and fire, especially during the forenoon hours; the afternoon is much to be preferred for all honorable engagements; for seeking promotion or advancement from principal officers in large corporations, public officers and from thine employer generally.

27—Thursday. A day of excellent promise, inviting travel, business activity and enterprise. REGULUS points to this as another of the best days in the month in which the beginning of new undertakings and important steps in general business should be taken; he urges his friends to waste none of these moments in idleness and pleasure, no matter what may be their business or occupation. The day is particularly favorable for commercial enterprises of consequence, for money negotiations and real estate dealings.

28—Friday. Be in no haste in the morning hours to engage in business of an elegant or artistic nature; do not make purchases of fancy or decorative goods, nor give attention to the polite studies; but give thy best energies to business of magnitude as the morning is passed; dealing with persons in the literary walks of life and with those in clerical pursuits; during the noon hours make engagements with publishers, printers, travelers, mathematicians, inventors and scientists.

29—Saturday. Apply not for favor to thy superior in employment nor to persons in official stations, and keep thy temper in the afternoon, when do not trade in metals or cattle.

30—Sunday. The evening hours are the best for the enjoyment of the elegant in literature and activity of the imagination; few conditions, however, conduce to religious fervor or moral advancement; the middle hours of the day are depressing and do not promise satisfactory experiences in any direction.

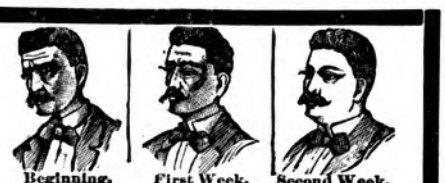
31—Monday. Have no dealings on this day with public officers or managing authorities in great corporations or upon large public works, nor solicit favor from railway officials or from persons of prominence noted for eccentricity of conduct or habit; do no correspondence of consequence nor sign any agreement in the nature of a bond. The time is peculiarly unfortunate for the majority of persons born about the 23rd of February, 24th of May, 27th of August, or 26th of November of past years, as they will seem to be strangely baffled in their efforts and hindered from realizing anticipations at this time and are likely to be just now in the midst of unusual mental anxieties, controversies or annoyances. Such persons should be very careful at this time about signing their names to writings and should not travel or change residence at this time.

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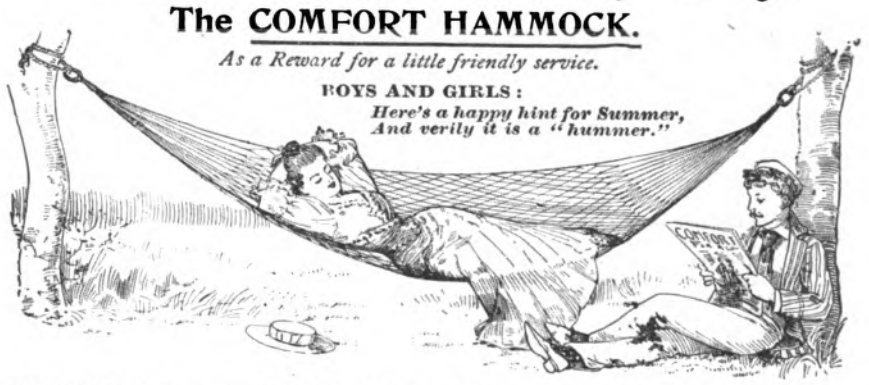
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IN OUR NEW COLONIES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



CLEARLY few of us could have been prophets enough a year ago to have foretold that May 1st. would have been generally celebrated throughout the United States as a day commemorating the greatest naval victory of modern times; or that within a twelvemonth America would be a first-class power with possessions both in the East and West. And yet such is the fact and the grand wave of patriotic feeling which sweeps over the country was evinced by the general observance of a day, which is popularly called "Dewey day," but which legally has no existence as a holiday. Not even on "flag day" during the last Presidential campaign, when all parties vied with one another to give the greatest visible manifestation of patriotism, was there such a general display of "Old Glory."

While all praise is due to Admiral Dewey, it was also a day in which the heroism and gallantry of thousands of others were recognized. And right here COMFORT wishes to say that one of the most gentlemanly and impressive acts of the whole war was that of now Rear Admiral John Philip, then commanding the Texas, who, after our great victory at Santiago, assembled his officers and crew on deck and reverently declared in their presence his belief in Almighty God and requested his comrades to give silent thanks to Him for their preservation. This simple act of manly reverence will be remembered in history when events of much greater importance are forgotten, simply as an example of the manliness of thought and action of the American officer of to-day. Our initial shows this gallant and God-fearing commander.

In the midst of this national celebration has been one discordant note. A band of so-called "Anti-Imperialists" in Boston, headed by Senator Hoar and Edward Atkinson have carried on a war against the Government. The latter gentleman has been sending pamphlets to the army in the Philippines which are intended to foster sedition and mutiny. What these kid-gloved gentlemen want is not clear further than that they oppose "Imperialism" which so far as learned no one desires; but as we have repeatedly pointed out, while it is so easy always to destroy plans, it is not so easy to make them. COMFORT's readers will notice that with all the criticism interested parties have made about the policy of President McKinley in the Philippines, that none of them ever undertake to say what the United States shall do. Any policy of cowardice would raise a howl of indignation. COMFORT believes that our knowledge of the archipelago as yet is not sufficient to say what is the best thing to do.

Meanwhile President McKinley's commission is gathering facts and will undoubtedly render a report which will show what is best to be done. It is unfortunate that already many men are trying to make political capital out of this and other questions, which are of the most material interest to us as a nation. Our people should learn from the wise course of England that on all foreign questions we should stand together as one man for our country. It is already shown that the insurgents have deceived themselves by the noise of these people in America into supposing that there was a great division here; and, that they would be supported. This was what gave them courage to arm and rebel. Whether official action will be taken against Atkinson cannot be foretold; but in any other country than America he would have ornamented the interior of a military fortress weeks ago. So slight is the opposition of the people to the government that it seems probable that this act of sedition will be looked upon with good-natured contempt. The only bearing it can possibly have is its impression on the Filipinos.

The military operations in the Philippines during the past month have been remarkable



BRIG. GEN. FREDERIC FUNSTON.

as being one continued success for the American army. At times the Filipinos have fought desperately, but have been driven from every field and whatever successes they have met with have been of such minor and temporary character that they have scarcely been noted.

One of the most remarkable things in the whole conduct of the war has been the superiority evinced by the American volunteers and regulars when left to fight in their own way. Readers of history will remember that had Braddock listened to George Washington, his ambuscade and defeat would have been practically impossible, as Washington desired the English army to fight in small bodies as skirmishers, but Braddock obstinately believed that war must be carried out under certain rules and formation of the military. At a later date Lexington and Concord showed what Americans could do with the flower of the British army. Careful historians claim that had Washington himself not been filled with the same military spirit, the British army could have been beaten much earlier than it was, but that it took nearly four years of the War of the Revolution to discipline the Americans into machine soldiers and so that they did not want to fight in an independent manner. In the War of 1812 the most notable battle, that of New Orleans, was fought by riflemen who did their shooting without regard to military rule. The same fact showed in the Civil War; but as both sides were under West Point educated officers the armies were gradually made into disciplined forces.

In the present campaign the modern army tactics, which had seen the futility of large formations and columns of men advancing against modern weapons, have favored the American idea of fighting, and as will be seen in most of the accounts of the battles, the Americans advance in loose order with as little exposure as possible, and when ready rush the enemy with wild yells. This fighting has been something unheard of to the Filipinos who measured the white men from what they had seen of the Spaniards. It is probable that we shall never know the terrible slaughter that must have taken place among the Filipino soldiers. Photographs taken of the trenches and fields show their dead bodies in heaps, and they are undoubtedly learning a terrible lesson in this campaign. The whole advance this month has been a following up of the success at Malolos where it was expected that Aguinaldo would make a final stand, but which it will be remembered he deserted with hardly a blow after several defeats on the march toward that spot which was the insurgent capital.

The Filipino seat of Government was then removed to Calumpit, which is a large city a number of miles north of Malolos. The country is a hard one to fight in, and the roads very bad. There is a railroad running from Manila to Calumpit which crosses two rivers, the Bagbag and the Grande. Calumpit is situated on both sides of the Rio Grande. The papers have been full of the accounts of heroic adventures of our troops who steadily drove the Filipinos until they made their last stand in the tremendous fortifications thrown up on the further side of the Rio Grande at Calumpit. Here the works were so strong and the natural position was so impregnable that a handful of Americans could have held the position against an army, but in spite of this the Filipinos were driven from their forts with the loss of scarcely an American. The passage of this river is a remarkable military achievement, and General MacArthur, who commanded that part of the expedition, claims it as the greatest military event of the century and attributes its success to the daring skill and determination of Colonel Funston. It was undoubtedly the most daring enterprise of the campaign in the Philippines, and the flower of the insurgent army was driven back from the trenches and forced to flee northward toward the hills.

As this remarkable battle is but a type of many engagements that have taken place, and as it gives an idea of the individual bravery of the American soldiers, we will tell, in a few words, of the remarkable event.

On the night before the successful attempt, Colonel Funston with a small body of Americans determined to cross the Rio Grande. On the opposite side lay the whole of the insurgent army heavily intrenched and armed with artillery. It was necessary to cross. The first attempt at night was betrayed by the barking of dogs as Colonel Funston with fifteen men in the darkness crept across the dismantled iron bridge of the railroad. Colonel Funston with Corporal Furgeson crawled along the girders to within twenty feet of the opposite shore without the sentry, who was within ten feet of them, discovering their presence. Finding it impracticable to take any large body of men across this dismantled bridge, Colonel Funston called for one hundred and twenty men to cross the river a mile further down. It was in the moonlight that the barking of dogs betrayed this display of American activity. The insurgent army opened a heavy fire and they withdrew.

Undaunted by these two failures, Col. Funston persevered in the enterprise and succeeded in carrying the defences in one of the most daring and courageous achievements ever performed. The insurgents, numbering several thousand, occupied these earthworks on the bank of the river, and the bridge was so stripped of its flooring that it was impossible to cross it. In the morning following the night movement, Col. Funston decided to cross the stream in the face of the enemy's fire. With his 120 Kansans he went to a point in the river several hundred yards from the bridge, where two privates swam with a rope to the opposite shore, where they landed and attached the rope to a part of the insurgent trench. The rest of the Kansans kept up a fire upon the trench every time a man's head appeared, and so partly protected these daring soldiers with the rope. At the point where the two men landed were several insurgents, but as the privates began yelling they fled precipitately. As soon as the rope was tied, three rafts pushed into the stream under a heavy fire, and advanced upon the trenches driving the insurgents before them, although the Americans were for a time under the heavy fire of rifles and Maxim guns. Col. Funston running and shouting lead the charge, and the insurgent army broke into a perfect rout.

Col. Frederic Funston is a man who will be heard much of in the next few years. He has had more close shaves for life than any one in the American army in the same period of time. He first got a chance to show publicly the rare stuff that is in him in 1884, before he had finished his eighteenth year. His father was running for Congress in Southeastern Kansas on the republican ticket. The campaign was going against him when young Funston took a hand in the fight, audaciously addressing a meeting held for the democratic candidate, and by his exhibition of pluck, logic and wit converting foes into friends. His father won by the largest majority the district had ever given.

Funston was city editor of a paper in Fort Smith, Ark., three years later. It was a democratic sheet and Funston was a republican. There was not enough in the work to fill his yearning for excitement. The editor went away for a couple of days and left him in charge. Next day the paper appeared as a republican organ. The editor, summoned by telegraph, arrived in time to save his property from destruction at the hands of a mob. "I didn't like my job and I didn't like the town," said Funston when explaining his conduct to his friends, "but I thought that I might as well let them know that I had been there before I quit."

A trip on a government botanical expedition which took him through Death Valley and involved hardships that disabled more than half the members of the party next furnished Funston with the spice of danger which for him constitutes the chief charm of life. He was sent to Alaska on a collecting expedition. "There are a lot of people who know more about botany than 'Fred' Funston," said the head of the bureau who recommended him, "but nobody will come nearer getting what he goes after." After going through Chilcoot Pass alone in a blizzard, being capsized in a canoe in rapids that had claimed scores of victims, and enjoying many other hazardous adventures, Funston came back from Alaska with the finest collection of botanical specimens that ever came out of it.

Finding difficulty in gratifying his thirst for adventure at home he joined a filibustering expedition and landed in Cuba in August, 1896. Gomez was quick to recognize a hero and gave the young Kansan a prominent command and abundant opportunities to display his reckless courage. Wherever fighting was to be done Funston was in the thick of it. He handled dynamite guns and bombs as coolly as though they were fire extinguishers. In one battle he led a charge of five hundred mounted Cubans against twenty-five hundred Spanish infantry and was wounded three times. His horse was shot under him, but heedless of the hail of bullets around him he stripped the beast of saddle and bridle—for such accoutrements were very scarce in the Cuban army—and walked with them off the field. After engaging in twenty-two battles in Cuba he returned to New York—the ninety pounds that was left of him—on January 10, 1898, a physical wreck, and, as he himself thought, crippled for life. But when the war with Spain was declared he had so far recovered that he was able to offer his sword to the President, and was commissioned colonel of the Twentieth Kansas. How he has swam rivers under fire in the Philippines and done other valorous deeds has thrilled all Americans who have read of them. He is hardly thirty-three years old, and is as modest and unassuming in demeanor as he is full of grit and pluck. Since this article was written, President McKinley has promoted him to be a Brigadier General for bravery and courageous service.



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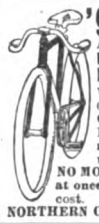
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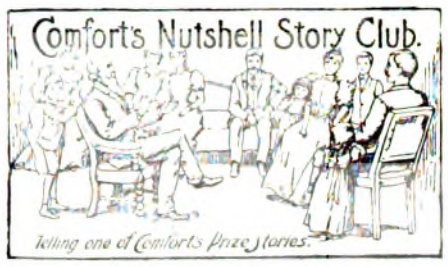
COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR JULY.

Katherine E. Letts, First Prize.
Frederick E. Burnham, Second Prize.
Max B. Thrasher, Third Prize.
Nicholas Lamar, Fourth Prize.
Ellen F. Wyckoff, Fifth Prize.

THE VOODOO CURSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY KATHERINE E. LETTS.

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"THROW that cane away!"

"Why?"

"Throw it away! Don't carry it a step with you!"

"What's got into you, girl?"

"That is the cane that Judge Baldwin carried when he was killed, down in the valley."

"Yes," returned the man slowly, and looking askance at the woman. "I picked it up when we found him."

"And it was his brother's Dr. Baldwin's before he was killed in the runaway."

"Perhaps. What of it? I believe you are superstitious."

"And old Daddy Sanders used to carry it before he was killed in the storm two summers ago."

"Well?"

"And his wife used to use it to help her lame foot before she fell over the cliff out on the farm. I can remember how she used to hobble around when I was a child. And they say a young surveyor who was killed by lightning under the tree in front of Sanders' gate, was holding it in his hand at the time."

The man grimaced, threw the cane back into the house, and strode out of the front gate towards the village. The morning sun was just peeping over the mountain and lighting up the valley below. The woman followed the man's retreating form, glanced on beyond him into the village, then on up the mountain, and finally down into the valley where the mists still floated.

With a sigh she retreated into the house, and a moment later might have been seen jostling the cane that caused the controversy out of the door, across the yard, and into the open road with the toe of her shoe.

They were brother and sister, this man and girl, children of Colonel Bristow, a Georgia statesman, prominent during the Rebellion, and who had owned at one time nearly the whole of the village and almost all that side of the mountain. When Colonel Bristow died, the son, Charles, and the daughter, Mary, fell heirs to a considerable patrimony, despite the fact that the Colonel had lost a great deal of property in later years. Both the children had been away to school, but had returned ultimately to live in the old house, though Charles was often away in the large cities for long intervals, and it was whispered, to no good purpose. At any rate, perhaps owing to bad management, the estate was now seriously encumbered.

About noon that same day, brother and sister were sitting on the veranda discussing the subject, and rather anxiously too, when a young man passing down the road entered the gate and politely asked for a drink. The Bristows, not wanting in Southern hospitality, offered him a seat and sent the servant for a pitcher of water. The stranger was a gentlemanly fellow who apparently knew a good deal of the world, and soon they were engaged in an easy conversation. His name proved to be Morton Hall, his occupation paymaster in a timber company, and his present object to pay off the men in one of their logging camps on the other side of the mountain. He said that he had got thus far with a considerable sum of money, when his horse had cast a shoe and gone lame, compelling him to stop for an hour or so. Mary Bristow expressed surprise that he should attempt to travel alone with money on his person, especially in view of the recent robbery and murder of Judge Baldwin on the road below. Her brother offered little or no comment, but studied the stranger furtively. For his part, Hall laughed and said that he so little thought of interference that he never even went armed.

They pressed him to stay to dinner, but he refused politely. They walked with him as far as the gate, and then, just as they were about to take leave, his eye fell on the cane lying by the path. He picked it up and examined it curiously. It was built up out of a stiff, straight ash shaft wrapped spirally with several strands of slender white rattan and one of soft greenish wood capped the handle end.

"Let me make you a present of that," said Bristow.

"Oh, I beg of you not to take it," exclaimed his sister impulsively.

Mr. Hall was about to hand it over with a gallant remark, when Bristow broke in roughly, "Don't let yourself be influenced by a fool girl's whims! It is only superstition."

"I beg pardon?"

"It is really a dangerous thing to own," persisted Mary. "The cane is older than I am. The story goes that it was made by a notorious Voodoo doctress years ago who put into it the fatal black Ippa vine, and then cursed it, so that it brings death to whoever owns it. The doctress herself was brought to her death by it! Every one who has owned it since has died a violent death."

Morton Hall laughed heartily. "Is that all?" he asked. "I am not in the least superstitious."

"I owned it for a week, and suppose I must look for trouble," said Bristow, sarcastically.

"I must thank you for the present," rejoined Hall. "The story adds to its value as a curiosity," and with a pleasant good-bye he lifted his hat and started toward the village.

During the meal the brother and sister sat silently. She sighed in a troubled way from time to time, and he looked glum and muttered to himself. After dinner he disappeared.

It was nearly six o'clock when Mary Bristow, sitting on the front veranda, saw Morton Hall ride past the house. He touched his hat and waved the cane in farewell.

"It grows dark suddenly in the valley," she called.

"Never fear," he answered. "Good-bye."

Two miles farther down the road the traveler drew his horse up sharply. The road was flanked on each side by a heavy growth of underbrush and it was almost dark now. "An uncanny place," he muttered. "By the description they gave me at the hotel, this must be the place where Judge What-you-call-him was murdered." The horse shied suddenly. Hall gripped the cane tighter and balanced it to see what sort of a weapon it might make. He glanced at it in surprise. It seemed to writhe in his hand. Then a figure stepped out of the underbrush and took deliberate aim at him with a rifle. The horse shied again and the rifle cracked. Morton Hall was a brave man but his next move surprised even himself. He found the would-be assassin within reach, and quickly raising the cane he brought it down with all his strength. The repeating rifle cracked again but the bullet sped wide.

Hall looked for his assailant. He had fallen under the blow. Quickly dismounting the paymaster knelt by him. The wooden head of the cane had struck the temple and raked downward through the face and jaw as though it had been of the hardest iron and propelled by an irresistible force.

Hall mounted his horse again determined not to venture farther that night. In a little while he had reached the village and given the alarm, and it took but a short time to get a crowd together to go to the place to which Hall guided them.—By this time it was quite dark, and no attempt was made to identify the dead man by those who bore him back,—and some time later a crowd of men burst into the hotel and laid the body of the highwayman on the floor in front of the roaring fire. An incredulous murmur was running continually over the villagers and many came and peeped at the white upturned face, and then tip-toed, away, whispering, "It is! It's Charlie Bristow!"

And then a slender young woman with a shawl over her head came, and the people drew back to make room. She looked, murmured, "I thought so, I thought so! O brother!" and pulled the shawl over her face and went away.

Then a strange thing happened. Morton Hall crossed the room toward the body of the man who had tried to murder him, carrying the fatal cane in his hand. Just as he passed in front of the fire-place the cane in some manner slipped between his legs and he tripped and plunged forward head first toward the raging flames. But a higher Power than the Voodoo had placed the blacksmith at the chimney corner, just where he could catch the falling man and save him.

The cane, however, flipped past, up-ended for an instant, and then toppled into the fire. There it lay for a moment while all gathered around to look. Next the strands began to unwind in the heat and the whole piece writhed and twisted. Its contortions grew wilder and even seemed to take on a human desperation. The very brands and blazing logs were stirred from their place and thrown out into the room where the red light fell on the face of the corpse. Then there was a sudden explosion that put out the fire, and the men groping their way out in terror were choked by a pungent smell of burning sulphur.

The accursed talisman of the Voodoo had done its worst, and was no more.

OUTWITTED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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PHIL Buddington was station agent at Longview. He had held the position for two years and had won the respect and confidence of the company.

The station was one of the loneliest on the road—two miles from the village and a half mile from the nearest house. Buddington had hoped for a pleasanter and more lucrative position long before this, but other men seemed to have the faculty of stepping in just ahead of him, and he was almost ready to believe the complaint of many of the men on the road—that there was little chance of advancement for anyone, save those who had friends in the management of the road.

The office at Longview had been robbed and the company had lost something over a hundred dollars. Although Buddington was in no wise to blame, and the company looked at the matter in that light, Phil was inclined to view the loss too seriously, feeling worse over it than if the money had been his own.

The opportunity presented itself for Buddington to serve the company in a marked manner and he was not slow in responding.

One morning the express-messenger on the down-train handed Phil a letter from the division-superintendent, warning him to keep a sharp watch for two desperadoes who had robbed several of the road's offices. Further, he was informed that five hundred dollars reward was offered for the arrest of the men.

Buddington received the note early in the morning and all day his thoughts reverted to the matter. He wondered what he should do were the outlaws to surprise him, and with all his meditation, was quite unable to solve the perplexing problem. Of one thing he was sure, however—he would do his best to protect the interests of the company, and if possible do something toward bringing the men to justice.

Early in the afternoon snow began to fall and Phil busied himself earlier than usual caring for the switch-lights and attending to certain other duties, intending to leave as soon as the mail-train had passed.

At three o'clock the mail-carrier threw the pouch into the office, and was off again in a trice, his horse, cold and impatient, scarcely to be trusted alone for a moment.

Buddington was reading the superintendent's letter for the fourth time. A slight noise at the ticket-window caused him to glance up. For an instant his heart stood absolutely still.

There they stood, the two men whom the superintendent's letter had described, less than six feet away, as villainous-looking men as he had ever seen there on the border.

The office-door was closed and the new safe that the company had sent down two days previous was open; within the strong-box were six hundred dollars belonging to the company.

"Open the door, youngster," said one of the men, advancing to the door.

It would have been dangerous to have disobeyed, and Buddington did what most men would have done under the circumstances. He complied, but in doing so he passed the safe and adroitly closed the door, turning the combination. He had not yet mastered it, and the numbers were written upon a slip of paper. The instant he turned the combination, he threw the slip into the fire.

"Now open that safe, boy," said one of the men, with an oath, "we want the cash and are going to have it."

As yet, Buddington had planned nothing definite. His only thought in destroying the combination numbers was to gain time, meanwhile his wits might come to his assistance and suggest something.

"Certainly," replied Phil, his voice a trifle unsteady, "but you will have to be patient. The safe is a new one, and I have not yet learned the combination. I have it written upon a slip of paper and will look for it."

In one of those moments of keen perception the means of outwitting the men flashed upon him.

"Excuse me," said he, turning pleasantly to the men, "but not once have I failed to hang the mail-pouch on the crane yonder, in time for the mail-car to snatch it as it passes. The train is due in less than ten minutes; would you object to my attending to the pouch before looking farther?"

"Yes, we do object," roared one of the men, angrily.

"Hold on," said the other, speaking to his comrade, "the last train that stops here has gone. Perhaps the 'mail' would think it strange were there no pouch to-night. Let him attend to it."

"There is something in that," said the other, thoughtfully, "hang the pouch and be done with it, boy."

Buddington had at odd moments picked up a passable Spanish vocabulary. Near the border it was spoken freely, especially by the train crews that passed beyond the Mexican line and he had little trouble in conversing with any of the men on the road. Rapidly he wrote in Spanish upon a railroad tag.

"What's this?" demanded one of the men, glancing at the tag which Phil had tied to the mouth of the pouch.

"Merely a few words to facilitate the mail-clerk's work," replied Phil, "I take it you don't know much about the handling of Uncle Sam's mail. The clerks down here are about as familiar with Spanish as English."

Far down the road sounded the warning whistle of the express. Without waiting longer, hoping to escape embarrassing questions, Phil started out of the office, the men for an instant undecided what to do.

That moment of hesitation cost the outlaws their liberty, for Phil hurrying away, hung the pouch, and hardly had he returned to the office when the express whizzed past, the mail-car snatching the pouch from the crane.

Stop train below the cut. Am trying to hold two outlaws. Come by back-road, and well armed.
Buddington.

Instantly the clerk, who managed the iron arm for catching the pouch, noticed the unusual tag and took in the situation. The train was just rounding the curve in the road that hid the station from the approaching and departing trains; seizing the bell-rope, he gave the engineer the signal to stop the train.

"Be ready with your guns, boys," he cried, "Buddington at Longview is holding two robbers. See if your fire-arms are all right and follow me as soon as the train stops."

Meanwhile, Phil was ostensibly hunting for the combination-numbers, turning over this and that pile of papers in a vain attempt to locate the paper which had gone up in smoke a second before the men entered the office.

Phil thought that the trainmen were a long time in responding, and he wondered if the mail-clerk had noticed the tag at all.

"I believe the boy is playing it on us," said one of the men sniffing danger in the delay.

"We'll give you just three minutes to open

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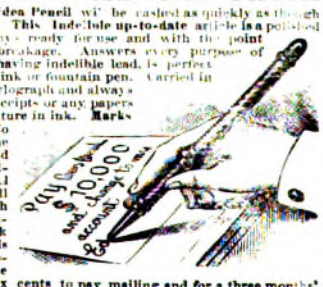
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that safe, and then——" he finished the sentence by cocking his revolver.

Buddington was now powerless to open the safe, had he so desired. Almost, he wished he had not destroyed the magic numbers and he wondered if he had not acted in a foolhardy manner. His fingers trembled as he continued the pretended search and his breath came in short gasps.

Buddington was standing so that he commanded a view of the rear door to the station, while the outlaws faced him. Suddenly he caught sight of the trainmen. They were running through the snow, two carrying rifles, the rest with a hand at the hip pocket.

The allotted three minutes were nearing an end and the man who held the cocked revolver, nervous and suspicious, watched the second-hand of the clock as it hastened on its third circuit. An instant later Phil saw three of the trainmen stealing into the station with their shoes off.

"I'll look here," said Buddington, throwing up the roll-top to the ticket-rack. Of course it stuck, and he slammed it down again, sending it up once more with a terrific bang.

Click! Click!

The two desperadoes leaped as though stung. They turned to find themselves peering into the muzzles of three gleaming revolvers, and three determined men commanded them to throw up their hands.

Those grim messengers of death were an unanswerable argument.

If looks could have annihilated Buddington, he would certainly have departed this life then and there.

The following week Buddington received a cheque from the company for five hundred dollars, all claim to which the trainmen waived. What pleased him most, however, was an accompanying note from the superintendent, informing him that a position awaited him as agent at one of the large offices of the company.

"A man who can keep cool and protect the interests of the company, when he might reasonably be expected to yield, we deem worthy of advancement," was the brief statement explaining the appointment.

TWO PRISONERS OF WAR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX B. THRASHER.

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DURING the recent war with Spain the United States Government was sometimes harshly criticised for the publicity given to many of the plans of the campaign, and it was said that no secrets could be kept from the newspapers. Probably the critics never stopped to reflect that the very frankness with which much information was given out might be the surest method for diverting attention from what it was wished to keep secret. That this may have been true is to be seen from the following story, told here for the first time, of one of the most exciting incidents connected with the war.

* * * * * * *

On one of the largest of the islands in Boston harbor is a private school for boys. The name of the island is Bradford's, and the school has been in existence there for over half a century. Bradford's is only about a mile from the main land. To the north lies Castle Island, on which is built Fort Independence, a massive granite structure formidable enough to look at but wholly useless as a defense against the guns which have been cast since its prison-like galleries were constructed. Out beyond Castle Island is the main ship channel through which, narrow and crooked as it is, all of Boston's commerce must pass. Still farther to the east are Boston Light, Nix's Mate and the other islands of the harbor, over which the boys at Bradford's can sometimes catch the gleam of the light on Minot's Ledge.

One night in July of 1898 a sentinel was pacing back and forth upon the crest of a bluff on the western shore of Bradford's Island. The face of the bluff was steep and gravelly, and it descended abruptly to a narrow beach up which the waves were slowly climbing as the tide came in. A few rods back from the crest of the bluff was a little grove of oak trees, and half a dozen neat white tents under the trees marked the place where had been pitched the summer vacation camp which for several years has been one of the most popular features of the Bradford School.

Don Clayton had the watch from nine to one o'clock. The clocks in the Dorchester church spires over across the bay had just struck for midnight, and Don was thinking that in one more hour he could crawl into one of the tents which looked so inviting back there under the trees. Camp Phillips, named after one of the old Bradford boys who was now a soldier in Cuba, was laid out forty rods square. Following three sides of the square the picket line was inland, away from the edge of the bluff. Pacing up the third of these lines, his gun upon his shoulder, the sentinel approached the bluff again. Just ahead of him, across the water, the brilliant electric lights of the city shone through the night. Don wondered to himself just where on the "Heights" before him the cannon had been planted which drove the British out of Boston. The question was never settled in his mind, though, for when the picket came up to the bluff he saw that in his absence a boat had been drawn up on the beach and that five men were standing just beneath him. At first, thinking they were "clammies" Don started to warn them that this island was private property and that no one was allowed to land upon it without permission. Before he had shouted out this warning, though, Don saw something which caused him to draw back from the brow of the bluff and drop down flat in the grass to where he could crawl back again and just peer over the edge of the bank, down upon the beach, without danger of being discovered. The five men standing close beside the boat were talking excitedly, although too low for Don to hear what they said. Several times they pointed out upon the water in different directions, and it was when one of the men had done this that a long black cloak which he wore had slipped from his shoulders and given the picket on the bank above a chance to see that this man wore beneath the cloak the heavily gold-trimmed uniform of an army officer.

At first Don thought that after he had watched the men for a minute or two he would squirm back in the grass to where he could get to the tents without being seen and there wake up the instructor who was in charge. Later, though, he decided it was best to wait and watch the midnight visitors. Evidently they were no ordinary "bay prowlers," looking for a chance to steal fruit or chickens, and he made up his mind that if they put quietly out in their boat again he would not molest them nor arouse the camp. He wished he knew what they were talking about. Sometimes he could catch a word or two, but when he could he could not always understand, and he finally decided that not all of the men, at least, were speaking English. Anxious to hear better he crawled a little farther out upon the edge of the bluff.

It was an unfortunate move. Some of the boys only that afternoon had been burrowing into a stratum of gravel just there in search of the Indian arrow heads in which Bradford's Island abounds. The thin turf on the edge of the bank gave way. Don was too far over to save himself, and down he slid, along with little puffs of dust and an avalanche of gravel, until he landed on all fours right among the men.

Naturally the men jumped aside from this unexpected arrival, but before Don could get his breath enough to shout an alarm, or, in fact, to say anything, they were back by the boat again and two of them had seized him and bound a handkerchief about his mouth so tightly that he could not make the slightest noise. Then, while one of the two held him by the coat, the other brought a rope from the boat and tied hand and foot, when this was done laying him down like a bale of goods upon the sand.

By this time the other three men had come back to the boat, and an excited discussion took place over Don's body, although the men talked in whispers now for it was evident they feared there might be other eavesdroppers up in the darkness out of which the boy had been fired so unexpectedly at them. The talk lasted only a minute or two, though, for one of the men gave a sharp command, and pointed towards the water. The two men who had bound Don picked him up and laid him in the bottom of the boat. The men who had given the command, and the man in uniform, who had drawn his cloak about him again, seated themselves in the boat, the other man pushed off and taking the oars rowed out into the bay.

At first Don thought he had been kidnapped, but his common sense promptly told him that he was not a person of enough importance to have all this disturbance made over him, and he decided that he must have been brought along because his captors were afraid he would have given an alarm if they had left him behind. As the boat moved out farther from the shore the men began to speak again, this time not in whispers, since they were not afraid of being overheard. Imagine how Don, tied and gagged in the bottom of the boat, felt to hear the captain say:

"Better put a knife into him and throw him overboard. We've run risk enough already."

The man in the cloak made some reply which Don could not understand, but it was a relief to feel that he objected to the murderous proposition of the other. Don knew now that a part of the time the men had been speaking to each other in Spanish. His chum at Bradford's was the son of an American merchant in Havana, sent to the School when the Cuban trouble began, and Don had learned enough Spanish from him to be able, now that the men talked aloud, to guess their meaning.

"Hear me, and put him out of the way, and be safe."

The speaker had thin, hard lips and cruel eyes. Don could not see him from where he lay in the boat, but each time he spoke the boy thought of a long, wicked-looking knife which a sailor who had once come to Bradford's had brought with him, and which the boys said had once killed a man.

"Not unless we must," the man in the cloak replied. "I like the risk as little as you, but he is only a boy, and—I have a boy of my own, no older than he is, over in Madrid."

The man who seemed to be the captain began an angry reply, but he had spoken only a word or two when a low whistle sounded from the surface of the water not far away.

"Ah! There's the boat," he cried. "Good!"

The men rowing changed their course into the direction from which the whistle had been heard, and a few minutes later the row boat came alongside a clean-built steam yacht painted dead black and lying silent on the water, without a light in sight. Men leaning over the rail caught the side of the row boat with muffled boat hooks and held her while the five men who were in her climbed to the deck of the yacht. Don they left lying in the bottom of the row boat.

"What makes you so late?" the captain demanded angrily.

"We ran aground," the man who seemed to be in charge of the yacht replied.

"It was only the coming tide that got us off. It's no use trying to go around the island on that side. The channel is too narrow and the current too strong."

"Caramba!" cried the captain. "It is the main channel we must take then, and run our chances."

"General," he added, turning to the man in the cloak, whom the men on the yacht had greeted with very great respect, "we can spare no time. What shall we do with the boy?"

The officer looked down into the boat, where Don had stopped breathing to hear the answer.

"Cast off," he said, "and let the boat drift. We do not need her now. Somebody will pick him up to-morrow, but we shall be safe out of the way long before then."

Don felt the boat roll as the noiseless boat hooks pushed it outward. Then he heard the "swish" of the yacht's screw through the water, and then he was alone. The boat seemed very still, but he knew he must be drifting.

He wondered if the tide had turned and was bearing him out into the broad harbor where, in the darkness, he might at any moment be run down by a tug or a steamer. He fancied that through the water he could feel the throb of the propeller behind one of those great ocean liners he had so often watched go up and down the channel. He knew they always planned to go out on a high tide. Was he in the path of this one, and would she strike him? Perhaps the tide had not quite turned, though, and there might be wind enough to blow his boat ashore on some of the islands before she reached the channel. Even if the row boat beached herself he might lie in her for hours before any one would find him. He tried to get up, but his head and shoulders were thrust under one seat and his feet under another, and he could not stir.

When he stopped trying to get up, and was quiet again, he heard the steamer's propeller plainly. "Chug, chug, chug, chug." There was no help now. He would be run over and drowned, and no one would ever know what had become of him. He wished they wouldn't have to think at camp that he had deserted his post.

"Chug, chug, chug, chug." The sound was coming nearer. But was it an ocean steamer? No! The vibrations were too short and quick. Don recognized the sound now. It was the little naphtha launch of the floating life-saving station, out on its regular night patrol. The boys at Bradford's knew the station well, and had often seen the red and green lights of the launches go past in the darkness. If he could only make the crew hear him. He tried to shout, but could not.

The sound of the engine grew fainter. They had passed him, when:

"Boat ahoy, there," a voice sang out through the night.

A very little later and Don was raised up into the launch, unbound and ungagged, and plied with questions. The life-saving men find many strange derelicts but seldom one to cause them more surprise than to find a Bradford School boy as they found Don. Fortunately the captain of the station was himself on board the launch that night.

"I don't know just what's up," he said, when Don told his story. "I don't just see their game, but I think I know what to do."

Upon which the prow of the launch was turned in shore, to where the nearest telephone could be reached, and in a very few minutes the Commandant's office at the Charlestown Navy Yard, in which in those exciting days some one was on duty night and day, knew all that Don could tell.

Half an hour later the launch landed Don at the School wharf, where no one but the instructor in charge of Camp Phillips, and the Principal of the School, ever knew why he deserted from picket duty that night.

Some of the Boston papers the next day contained this paragraph:

"The fast gun-boat Machias came into the harbor this morning having in tow a rakish-looking black yacht. Both boats dropped anchors off the Navy Yard, but the authorities there decline to give any information as to what the strange boat may be. The Machias has been lying at anchor off the Navy Yard for several day past."

And that, until this story was written, was as near as the public ever came to knowing that a famous Spanish officer, captured in the Cuban War, was for a time confined a prisoner in Fort Independence, in Boston Harbor; that he escaped from there, and was recaptured.

All of which may show that the Government can keep secrets when it wishes to do so.

A. Ladd and His Wonderful Lamp.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY NICHOLAS LAMAR.

Copyright, 1899, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



CONVICT Ladd stood at his bench putting the finishing touches on the carved top of a chair. Ladd was the genius of the prison, and the chair company, which had been so fortunate as to secure him on its contract, had given him the only work in the factory requiring any degree of skill. The big locker at the end of his bench was a perfect mine of interesting contrivances, but perhaps even more ingenious than all its contents was the lock that fastened its door, and which defied even the preternatural light-fingeredness of his fellows.

Suddenly the convict held up two fingers toward the guard on his raised platform at the center of the shop, indicating that he wanted to leave his place, and on receiving a signal of permission he started toward the supply room.

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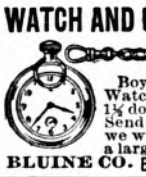


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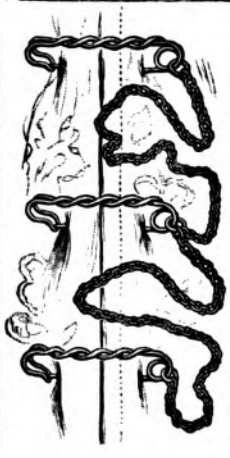


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COMFORT, Augusta, Me.

At the bench next on the right a short, stubby fellow was at work, his cap pulled recklessly on sidewise, his face in a snarl, and his whole appearance bespeaking surly ill temper. As Ladd passed him this man thrust out one foot and tripped him up.

A wild burst of anger appeared in the convict's eyes. He turned like a tiger and with a storm of blows drove the other to the floor. But only for a moment. The short man sprang again and returned the assault. The neighboring prisoners began to cheer and cat-call. Guard Brice came running and tried to separate the fighters. As well might he have expostulated with two angry bulls. Then finding that they ignored him, he raised his mace and struck twice, each blow leaving an ugly scalp wound. The men fell apart and staggered to an upright position, blood running down over their faces. The guard called the patrol, and leaving him in charge of the shop, took the two men "front" himself.

In the afternoon of the same day Ladd was again at work before his bench. He was weak from the punishment the Deputy Warden had administered, and the stitched cut on his skull throbbed convulsively. From time to time he cast furtive glances at his neighbor, who had fared just as badly, and who threw his tools around and jerked at his work in a very speaking manner. It was only the fear of repeated punishment that kept them from flying at one another's throats.

"There comes Old Whiskers," muttered Ladd as an elderly man in a Prince Albert coat, a tile hat, and a pair of gold-bowed glasses, stepped into the shop. "Now I wonder what kind of trouble he'll get me into this time."

"Old Whiskers," in other words Col. Batten, the contractor who operated the chair factory exchanged a few words with the guard and foreman, and then began the round of the first floor, stopping at each bench and inspecting the work, and sometimes speaking to the workman. He reached Ladd, and after looking over his patterns, commented on the character of the wood in the pile of uncarved tops. The convict was just in the humor to ignore him, and so after looking his man over critically the Colonel turned again to the patterns. Then he dropped these and walked back to where the guard and foreman stood talking. He said something rather vehemently and with frequent glances in Ladd's direction. Ladd swore to himself. But in truth Col. Batten was speaking of the patterns and not of the prisoner at all.

Perhaps it was the throbbing wound in his scalp; perhaps the fever of the cut had permeated the skull and touched the brain. At any rate Ladd began to mutter to himself. Old Whiskers was always getting him into trouble, he said. And that guard, Brice, he would get even with him. Yes! He would get even with both of them. The fever grew. His glance sought the convict with whom he had fought in the morning. There was another; he would have a triple revenge.

His eye fell on the gas-holder shed, a large frame building next the chair factory. An idea struck him and he began to think it out. A good education had not been wasted on this man. He watched the clock narrowly, and just before the quitting bell struck he started for the supply room. From a case he took a brace-and-bit intended for drilling holes in iron; then he slipped out into the furnace room and hid behind the boilers. In a few minutes the men in the shop had finished washing, and were already on the road to supper in a lock-step column. As Ladd slipped out from his hiding-place, he dodged the engineer, and reached his bench where he began rapidly and skillfully to fashion an armful of wooden plugs. With his plugs and his drill he sallied boldly forth into the gathering dusk and reached the door of the gas-holder shed.

It was necessary to pick the lock, but in a moment that trivial obstacle was overcome and he stepped inside. Ladd was familiar with the place, having been a member of the force employed on the building when it was erected. The great circular tank filled the whole shed save for a narrow space around the circumference. The convict found a ladder and quickly mounted to the top where he fell instantly to work drilling a series of holes in the boiler iron plates.

It was slow work and already the evening count had showed the guards the existence of a "hide-out." The toiling convict heard the alarm, smiled grimly and worked the harder. As fast as the drill broke through and was withdrawn it was followed by a spurting jet of gas. Then one of the wooden plugs was inserted in the hole and pushed home. Finally the workman was satisfied; he surveyed his handiwork, and muttered, "Now for it! Tomorrow night that—who tripped me up, and I will have to work over time, and Brice will be there to watch us. Old Whiskers may not be there, but I'll catch all his machinery and stock, and that ought to break him up." Then he descended to the ground, put the ladder carefully away, and let himself out of the building as he had entered. He ran in and out between several of the buildings, so as not to be found in the part of the yard near the holder, and catching sight of the lights of a searching party, approached and gave himself up. And a little later he took his punishment, and offered no explanation.

The next evening after supper Guard Brice marched two prisoners from the dining-room back to the chair factory where a special piece of work would keep them far into the evening. Colonel Batten was already there, pottering around among the machinery and the various orders. Ladd glowered at him malevolently.

The men had their instructions and immediately set to work. Guard Brice settled himself in his chair nearby to enjoy a quiet smoke. The Colonel had retired into the foreman's private cubby-hole. An hour passed by with no interruption. Then Ladd dropped his tools.

"I want a couple of minutes off," he said.

"Another hide-out?" queried the guard, sarcastically.

"No. I want a drink."

"There's a bucket of water."

"It's stale."

"All right. But remember, if you set the whole force by the ears again you'll catch it worse than last night."

"Can I go?" persisted the prisoner, doggedly.

"I suppose so."

Ladd disappeared into the toilet room, noiselessly fastened the door with a wedge and then climbed out of the window and ran toward the gas-holder shed, drawing a sinister-looking object and a quantity of string from his pocket as he went. Having picked the lock he found his ladder and reached the top of the tank. The machine with the string attached to its trigger he fastened to a convenient manhole screw, and then stood over it thoughtfully.

"I have a hundred yards of string," he muttered. "If I pull it at that distance, I ought to be safe. There isn't any doubt that the flash will set off the gas. Let's see. About one part of gas to twenty parts of air will do the most damage, and it will take full ten minutes to let that much escape into the shed."

He shook out the string to see if it was free from tangle, caught it carefully in the fingers of one hand, and then began rapidly to knock the plugs from the holes he had drilled the preceding evening. The stench of the gas was over-powering. He held his breath.

Just as the last plug came away he caught sight of a moving light through one of the dirty windows. He stooped and saw that it was Guard Brice just come out of the chair shop with his lantern in his hand, who stood peering hesitatingly in all directions.

Ladd ducked involuntarily, and then nearly overcome by the volumes of gas began hurriedly grasping for the ladder. In the darkness he had lost his bearings, and groped in vain till he struck it suddenly and with such force that it fell over with a clatter. Brice heard the noise, uttered a shout, and came running. He jerked the door open and looked in. For an instant the convict was paralyzed, as his danger dawned upon him. Then he howled in terror:

"Don't come in here! Go 'way! Go 'way! Oh, you idiot! You fool! You——"

The very air itself flashed into light. There was a *whoosh* as of a mighty wind. The building rose bodily from the ground and fell apart, its walls flying in all directions. And it was done.

The immense boiler tank had been twisted half out of the well in which it floated, and the gas poured out of it. The windows of all the surrounding factories had disappeared, the weaker brick walls had been pushed down and just by the doorstep of the gas shed lay the body of a guard clutching an extinguished lantern in his relaxing grasp, while half under the overturned holder lay the body of a convict, blackened and steaming. And up above them streamed a pillar of fire, illuminating the heavens,—a signal lamp calling to all men within many miles to witness that Revenge, no matter how successful, is often a double-edged sword without hilt, which makes the intended victim and him who wields it to suffer as one.

A GRAFT ON THE FAMILY TREE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ELLEN FRIZELL WYCKOFF.

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THE house was old, old even for Rosquesbury. To-night the windows blazed with light. Bonfires burned at the corners of the crooked old streets that wound about it and rockets cut sharply through the heavy smoke that rose slowly from them.

Beneath the wide, old roof that spread above the twinkling windows, more than one of the signers of the Declaration of American Independence had feasted and slept in the grand old time of long ago. For the first owner of the place had been a patriot—a rich generous man, proud and brave. In the long picture gallery hung his portrait, the grim, powder-burnt face looking sternly down from its frame. And on the pages of the histories down in the library was his name in honorable place.

To-night the great grandson of the brave old man had called his friends together and the ancient walls rang with merrymaking.

This great grandson was a man worthy of his sire. Proudly he traced his lineage back to the stern old warrior who looked down from the gallery wall. There were those who declared that in Phillip Annesley the old man lived again.

But to-night when the great fires leaped and danced among the logs piled in the lanes and streets and the priceless chandeliers in the old halls and parlors twinkled and shone like new constellations and the music from many stringed instruments throbbed through the great rooms, nobody of all the gay company gave thought to a time so long gone. The present happiness was sufficient.

Ladies in quaint costumes and men in queer old clothes danced and chatted behind puzzling masks, for this was a masquerade, and from the ocean came a soft, caressing wind adding its sweetness to the beauty of it all.

In the yellow breeches and blue coat and diamond buckles of his illustrious ancestor, Phillip Annesley moved among his guests, and many a bright eye peeped slily out at him and many a white hand stayed his progress through the great rooms. He had made an oration in the town hall to-day that had brushed the ashes of indifference aside and set patriotism aglow. There was no mistaking the tall figure with its swinging walk and courteous bow and the kingly poise of the stately head. So he must stop and listen to low spoken words of praise, to pretty, daring compliments from lips that were safely hidden from his laughing blue eyes.

Upstairs, in a great luxurious chamber sat, even so late as this, a wee, faded old woman. A woman so pale and so still that but for the great shining eyes one might have thought her dead. On her lips was a calm, unchanging smile and in her eyes shone a soft light. The fire that burned even to-night in the quaintly tiled fireplace threw splashes of soft red light among the shadows that loved to cling to her. She was old—almost a hundred years old. Her shining eyes had looked into the faces of more than one of the men whose names were being honored to-night.

As the music grew louder she leaned forward, her hands catching at each other like fleshless claws.

"I did it, I wonder if death is waiting for me to repent? I did it and I am not yet sorry nor afraid. It was best; she was but a puny thing. The stock was too old. There's nothing in blood. It is the soul. Blood, forsooth. Men are made in moulds like diamonds or pearls or useless pebbles. Each independent of all others. But the soul—the thing that lives; it is that and place. I filled the place with the soul that I love. That is all. Filled it so long ago—so long ago that even Nature has forgotten and people trace resemblance to—to—It was at twelve o'clock on a night like this and the next night Alice died. No wonder, poor thing. But I am not sorry nor afraid. Is it you, Editha? Come." The last words were spoken in answer to a repeated knock at the door.

Through the soft, wavering firelight a girl came and stood beside the great cushioned chair.

"Shall I help you to bed, now, Miss Annesley?"

"To bed? To-night? Ah, no. Go away, child! The music, don't you hear it? That is rest for me. They are doing him honor. He is a king among them, my Phillip."

"How you love him!"

"Love him? I have loved him through three generations. And at last he loves me and is grateful. It is coming, the happiness, at last!"

"All this is too much for you. Shall I not close the doors and help you to bed?"

"No; not one door must you close. Not one. Open them all wide, wider. Let me hear more. It was this night sixty years ago and we were in Florence. I met Phillip there, but it was too late, too late! He painted my picture and—and—You know it, the one at the end of the gallery that is priceless because of the signature it bears. But ah, fame as well as love may come too late. He was dead when the world knew that a genius had lived! He painted my picture. I was like it sixty years ago in fair Florence and I—You are right Editha, the music has gone to my head. Send Hannah. At twelve come back to me. I want you, then."

The girl went reluctantly away. Not one of the fair faces behind the dainty masks down stairs was fairer than hers. Not a voice was softer, not a form more graceful. But she was not of these. Fate or chance or providence, or whatever unseen power it is that directs or decrees the destinies of mortals, had drifted her life alongside Miss Annesley's and she was giving her youth and strength for the food and shelter that would enable her to live on and grow old. Fifteen years ago Miss Annesley had gone on a journey and she had returned with the child, a little shy, quiet girl, with big brown eyes and close cut, reddish hair. And the child had made a place for herself. Not friend, not servant, not anything but Editha. And the years had crept past them, bringing the changes that make life.

Phillip had come home now and then from his wanderings and his heart had gone out to the wee, old woman in the great chamber. This living morsel of a long gone past. She told him stories of the men of long ago; and

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sometimes when he came after the shadows had gathered in the big chamber and the fire burned in the tiled fireplace, she told him of the great and wondrous love that had come into her life—a love that was immortal and could never die.

It was in Florence and she was young and the world was fair to see. She pointed to the walls where hung quaintly beautiful pictures of the old city, as the story went on; but there was a picture across which hung a curtain of priceless tapestry, and this he was never permitted to see. He knew that the curtain hid the face of her lover.

"Did he—die?" Phillip asked one night when the red firelight gathered about the wee witch-like figure bringing to it the soft curves of youth.

"Die? Almost everybody has died in a way, Phillip, but not really, you know. My lover is alive." The glow of the uncanny old eyes made Phillip turn from her.

"It was in Florence where my father was born. Was it then? So long ago?" he asked.

"It was then, but it is not so long when you've measured it step by step. Yes, it was then. It began and ended—no, it hasn't ended. Alice died. She was your grandmother. She knew, but she died. She was frail, that was why we went to Florence. And Horace was gone. Certainly she would have died any way. Sixty years ago! Leave me now, Phillip. My head is—yes, go now."

Only to-night before the gay company had gathered he had been with her. He had come in all the bravery of his great-grandfather's uniform, and she had fondled him with her claw-like fingers and watched him with her burning eyes.

His heart was full of pity for the wee, worn creature propped in the great chair.

"Not many women are so happy as I, Phillip. I've had my lover through three generations, in spite of all that came between." She said as if her bright eyes read the pity he could not conceal.

And Editha had come in, a quiet little body in her dark dress and white apron and cap. To Phillip she was a part of the room. One of the things that belonged to the old woman whose world it was, he had never seen her out of it, never thought of her except as he thought of the pictures and the shadows in the queer place. His visits home were short; his life belonged to the world beyond.

The house was athrob with music to-night when Editha closed Miss Annesley's door and walked down the corridor and past the door that shut off the stair leading to her own little room under the eaves, stopping at last before Miss Annesley's portrait at the end; evergreens and flowers were twisted about the grim old pictures of dead and gone Annesleys.

At the end of the gallery hung the picture of Miss Annesley and Editha stood entranced before it. She had been here not a few times and each time this picture had drawn her to it with an irresistible fascination. The pictured face was a marvel of beauty with its sweet brown eyes and smiling lips and its frame of softly parted red brown hair.

"Beautiful, beautiful. Is there a likeness even now? In my dreams of mother—surely I know the face. The hair, the eyes, the smiling lips—ah, the taunting memory that fades as I grasp it! It is like—"Paler, and with hands suddenly cold, she took from the bosom of her dress a little flat locket. Looking around cautiously she held it to her lips. "Only this once, Granny; nobody will ever know," she whispered, and then carefully opened the case. "It is like the one of the picture, and—and" Editha shivered and turned away.

"It is like the picture and I—yes, I am like it! Not a woman down there in the hall is prettier. Not one." She tiptoed part way down a broad stair and stood looking at the gay scene below her.

"I might do it, just this once. It is two long hours before twelve. Such long hours when the music is throbbing and the others are dancing. There are gowns, lovely gowns in those old trunks. I saw them when I went to get Phillip's costume. I might—"

The attic was not far from her own small corner in the great house. Bending over the deep cedar chest she drew out a package carefully done up in white linen. There was a faint perfume of lavender that was like a dim memory of long ago.

"This is it—the costume in the picture, the white and pink brocade! And the mitts and ribbons and laces and even the tiny white slippers—all but the locket." With flushed cheeks Editha gathered up the bundle and ran to her room. Before her small mirror she dressed herself and laughed aloud at the sound of the high heels of the tiny slippers on the bare floor.

It was easy to pull the soft red brown curls about her ears in the fashion of the picture and then she stood the living image of the portrait of Miss Annesley at the end of the gallery.

A piece of the filmy lace pulled across her flushed face answered for a mask, half revealing her happy eyes and smiling lips.

Again she crept down the gallery stairs. Slowly farther and farther, timidly at last for at the foot Phillip stood amid a group of laughing girls. One step more and unnoticed she had become one of them. Phillip's eyes found her, a demure little figure in a quaint rose-strewn gown.

"Where shall I seek a partner, fair ladies. Who is willing to dance with so clumsy a man as I on a night so warm? Will you?" He bowed low before Editha.

"Yes," she whispered, wondering if one of her shy little dreams had come true.

Editha had not been taught to dance, but she had watched the merrymakings here in the old hall many a time and her heart was light and the place athrob with music, and with Phillip's strong arms about her she floated through the sea of melody like a thistle down in a summer wind.

"You dance like a fairy," Phillip said.

"That is because I have never been taught to dance like a woman," she laughed.

"Have you not?"

She shook her head. He drew her into a pretty alcove where the sea breeze swayed the curtains softly.

"Won't you take that provoking bit of lace away? I'm sorely tormented because of it. I know you, and yet I do not. The gown, the poise of the head, a tone of the voice, the hair—who is it that you are like?"

She laughed softly—(there was no danger of being betrayed by a sound he had never heard in that dim chamber upstairs)—as he took off his mask and looked eagerly at her. How handsome he was and to talk like this to him, to Phillip!

"The delusion is a pleasant one," she said.

"Yes, the very roses in your gown, and your hands—do take the lace away." He leaned toward her in gentle pleading.

She raised the lace slightly and looked laughingly at him. "You wouldn't know me if the lace were quite gone," she said.

"But I want to, may I?" eagerly.

She shook her head. "Not possibly. I live so far, so immeasurably far from all this."

"Are you a little nun escaped from the convent over in the city, or a being from another world?" he asked. "Because——"

"That is it. I am a being from another world," she laughed.

"And it is in my dreams that I have seen you," he said.

"Really," with a pretty retrospective air," I do not recollect appearing in any of them."

"But would you know? Really, the people of your world are very provoking. And alas, that is true of the people in mine! I see the girl who wheedled me into asking for the next waltz looking this way. When I can get away from her, will you let me find you here?"

"But how shall I know?"

"The waltz you gave me—the waltz of waltzes it shall be to me forever—I will order that again. You know it? Ah, you remember too! When you hear it, come, please," and then he left her.

What a dream of beauty it was. An hour ago she watched the rockets from her dormer window, all alone. And now she was in the very heart of the merrymaking. She danced and chatted and laughed, a small bright thing with a film of rare old lace across her face and a quaint rose-strewn gown and small, high heeled slippers. And then she stole away to the alcove to wait—no, he was waiting for her!

"You have come. I have been watching you for hours and hours. What are you? A picture stepped from its frame, the spirit of some fair dead dame, a real flesh and blood girl?"

"All three," she laughed, and then her heart stood still. The clock on the stairs began to strike.

"It is twelve—the witches' hour. With the last stroke you must take the lace away!"

She knew the old hall. At the back of the alcove was a door. Could she reach it?

"A fan, please. On the table—get one for me." Slowly the heavy strokes beat through the music. When he brought the fan she was gone. On the rug lay a small white slipper. Laughing he tucked it in his pocket.

The house was dark. At the street corners the fires were dying sullenly. Now and then a lonely rocket swept the sky. Once in a while a loud explosion rent the silence. The Fourth was again a thing of the past.

With the little white slipper in his hand, Phillip stood in his room. "I wonder who she is? What a tiny foot. And the little hand—surely I do know her, and yet—Does a man in this prosaic age fall in love after such romantic fashion? And yet—yes, I want to find my little Cinderella. I must know her."

He turned the shoe over. Had he seen it before?

It was then that Hannah came to him with tidings that put the merrymaking out of his mind.

"Come, sir, come quick! Such a sight as is waiting. It is Miss Berta, sir, going, going at last!"

Silently he followed her.

In her chair sat the wee, worn old woman, her face ghastly, her eyes glazed, her hands clutching some yellowed papers.

"Phillip, I saw my spirit, to-night. I crept all alone to the stair and I looked down, crouching there, and I saw you and my spirit, and there was the light of love in your eyes, and now there is no longer any reason why this old body should live on. I am satisfied, but not sorry, Phillip, not sorry. Love has prevailed."

The voice ceased, the eyes closed, and that was all. Phillip raised the wee form and laid it tenderly down on the canopied bed. Hannah gathered up the papers and gave them to Editha. In the morning when a few friends were gathered in the old house she carried them to Phillip. He sat alone in one of the small parlors.

"I find here the carefully written directions for the funeral. The clothes she wore when her portrait was painted—do you know where they are?" He looked up and started slightly.

"Yes—I will bring them." She came back with the folded linen and laid it before him. "One—one shoe is gone," she said. "I have looked for it."

His face flushed a little and he looked up at her, a quiet little woman with a white ruffled cap pulled low over her hair and eyes.

"Have these been disturbed?" he asked.

She threw up her head and seemed taller. "Yes. I wore them last night and I lost one of the shoes. I am sorry."

He took the lost slipper from the pocket of his coat and laid it beside the other.

"I have found you," he said quietly. "This sad event will necessitate some change in your life," he began formally, but glancing at the ashamed, reddened face he went on hurriedly: "This is not a fitting season, but I shall not see you for awhile alone—not before I go away. And I want to say it all now, please. I love you. Will you give me the right to take care of you? After all, we know each other better than I thought. Will you be my wife, Editha?"

It was not the wooing she had dreamed of, but the voice was low and tender and the eyes full of entreaty. So, very softly, with the slippers and the rose-strewn gown between them she whispered:

"Yes."

Together they unfolded the papers—old love letters, some of them were—and then a little scarlet bound diary, dated sixty years ago. In gilt letters was the name, "Alice Annesley." Several leaves were tied together with a bit of faded ribbon. Phillip untied it and together they read:

"Florence, June 30th, 18—. Our baby is a girl. Horace will be disappointed; Berta is. The Brents have a fine boy born the same night as ours. They are miserably poor. Berta says Phillip is a genius, but she loves him still, in spite of the wife and boy! Poor Berta.

"July 5th. My head is queer. Berta says so. She dismissed the nurse and sat with me alone, last night. The new nurse tells me that my baby is a boy. I wish Horace was here. I am strangely weak. It is the Brent baby that is a girl and mine——"

Here the faint scrawl broke off.

"Brent?" Editha drew out the locket. "It is here, the name, you know, and I can show it to you now."

Phillip opened it. On one lid was engraved the names, Phillip Brent and Berta Annesley, and facing each other was two pictures. One like Miss Annesley's portrait and the other——

"It is yourself, Phillip," Editha whispered.

There was another paper in which was recorded the death of Phillip Brent and later the marriage of his daughter, Editha, to Arthur Wylde.

"That was my grandfather. When he and granny died Miss Annesley brought me here," Editha said wonderingly.

Later, they stood beside the wee, ghastly form in the rose-strewn gown.

"Did she know you, Editha?" Phillip asked.

"How can I tell? No, surely not, else—What does it all mean, Phillip? See, the curtain is gone from the picture, and it is—why, Phillip, it is like you! What does it all mean?"

"It means that there has been—a graft on the family tree," he said gravely, his eyes on the handsome picture.

"Has some wrong been done, Phillip? She was good to me."

He looked down into the troubled, puzzled face. "It can do no harm, now, Editha. Right and love have prevailed." And he kissed the frightened face tenderly.

"She said that last night. I don't understand, but oh, Phillip, I was so alone, and now I am so glad, so happy, for I love you."

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There are some species of flowers which have no odor except at night.

The depth of the Atlantic Ocean between the Canary Islands and the West Indies is nearly 4 miles in places.


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Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

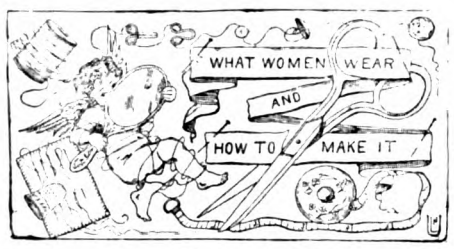
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WONDERFULLY pretty mid-summer frock is made up of sheerest white organdie over an under slip of violet lawn, the white intersected to form squares, with inch-wide val. lace of a creamy tint. The soft, full bodice is caught about the waist by a crushed belt of rosy violet velvet, finished with a smart bow at the back, while a similar bow of velvet adorns the side of the lace stock. A number of fetching silk waists have sleeves and guimpe of lace, unlined, making them especially adapted to wear in hot weather. Nothing but praise is given the hats Dame Fashion has ordained shall be trimmed with naught save a bow of more or less large dimensions. The regular sailor shape is the style usually adopted for this mode of decoration and has the crown banded with a twist or high folds of the silk or velvet, (cut bias and hemmed on the edges) with the bow usually placed directly in front, though it sometimes graces the side of the hat. A dainty one I have in mind is a deep burnt yellow



BERTHA OF BLACK LACE.

satin straw, with a perfectly straight sailor brim, and rather high crown, bearing a tight twist of rose pink velvet about it with an enormous bow of the same at the front, spread out quite flatly. Frequently a large buckle replaces the knot in the center of the bow, with good effect. The mob-cap is still a popular style of head-covering, and is, as a usual thing either all black, or all white; very becoming, too, are they to a round face, and worn alike by the maiden in her teens, and the young matron with her flock of little ones about her wearing the same style of hat. Those of white are built of thinnest silk mull, this material forming both the foundation and the bow of the hat, while around the edge is pleated a very full fall of silky lace. Sometimes a pink rose and a few leaves are tucked in among the folds at the side, adding a delicious touch of color.

Linen collars are not nearly so much in evidence among the most fetching girls this season, as are the neck fixings of ribbon, so much more comfortable and becoming, if carefully and properly adjusted. The ribbon is first fastened at one end, to the right side of the collar band, at the front, brought around the throat as tightly as can be borne, then once around again, the pointed end fastened with a fancy pin toward the left side of the front. When the back is fastened in place by means of a gold safety pin, you have a thoroughly up-to-date arrangement, and one that will stay in place, and as high about the neck as could be desired. Often the ribbon is fastened directly in front with a tiny bow and long ends reaching very nearly to the belt.

For wear with white shirt-waists ribbons having a white ground are the daintiest—white satin or taffeta polka-dotted with black or a color, are very much in vogue, as are also ribbons made to resemble ginghams in tiny checks. A very effective ribbon in taffeta has a ground-work of white with a rainbow effect of shades of blue running through the center and black stripes along the border. Handkerchief ties in fancy border or all-over Persian effects are very popular, though more appropriate for country wear than city, as they are more or less showy.

Smart indeed are the shirt-waists having yokes of white. It is the hall-mark of this season's goods, and yet it would be an easy matter to remodel last summer's waist into one of these nobby affairs. Entire white waists are made up in most dainty fashion with fronts of all-over embroidery in a small design. Talking of waists recalls to my mind a lovely model in white taffeta, completely covered with coarse white Brussels net, with across the front appliques of apple-green satin ribbon set on with a white cord.



OF SCARLET CHALLIE.

A pretty fad this summer is to have your pique skirt trimmed with three bands of wide insertion with the pique cut from beneath it and worn over a petticoat of blue, pink, green, or violet lawn, matching the shirt-waist in tone.

A most effective white organdie is built over sea-blue taffeta and trimmed most elaborately with row upon row of half-inch white satin ribbon set on as full as possible in slanting fashion, thus bringing the left side much higher than the right. The same mode of decoration elaborates the bodice. The parasol to match is white taffeta with frills of the ribbon set at even distances apart, and lined with sea-blue satin.

One of the prettiest bodices I have seen this season is built of white satin shrouded in white mousseline de soie set in tiny French tucks. An oddly shaped bertha of black lace with the pattern outlined in seed pearls and coral, has flaring epaulettes, and odd little cuffs at the elbow and wrist. A stock and belt of coral velvet are the finishing touches.

Never were prettier styles shown in children's frocks than now. A dainty little rig for a tiny miss of four or five summers is made of finest dimity in white, over a slip of rose-pink taffeta. The little Empire waist has a set of shirrings arranged below through each of which pink bebe ribbon is run, tying at the back in a series of little bows. The round neck is finished simply with a tiny frill and over the puff sleeves are airy wings of the dimity.

A sensible frock for a school girl is given here, made up in scarlet challie, the kilted skirt and blouse bordered with inch-wide black velvet ribbon; with it is worn guimpe and sleeves of tucked silk in scarlet, or if a more dressy effect is desired white taffeta or muslin may be substituted. The large brimmed hat of white Neapolitan is trimmed smartly with a big bow of black velvet ribbon.

WHAT HE CAUGHT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WAS at Peacock's during the half hour of anticipation between the blowing of Gabriel's horn, which announced that supper was under way, and the clanging of a bell which would proclaim it was ready—and the Story Teller was absent.

"Wonder what's keeping him?" asked the fisherman of chronic failures, as he threw one leg to the veranda railing and then irritably crossed it with the other, "struck a school?"

"Nope; calmed off Cape Florida an' likely to pole in 'bout midnight," said the expert troller, philosophically. "I've been all through this no wind business from a b c to algebra. Has any one a yarn that is n't moss grown?"

No one answered. The fat man's legs followed the lead of the irritable fisherman and found their way to the veranda railing, and they were joined by others, singly and in pairs, and only differing in the method of crossing or in the angle of their inclination. At length a small, apologetical man at the far end of the line squeaked out:

"When I was down here last year, I went over to Cape Florida an' caught——"

"What?" cried the fat man, dropping his feet to the floor in resounding interrogation, "king fish? how many?"

"Blue fish, more likely," interrupted the expert troller with fierce eagerness. "Now I myself——"

"Pshaw! pshaw!" broke in a third impatiently, "he means a tarpon. They're not common on this coast, but we get 'em sometimes. Let me tell you a story."

"Oh tut! tut! tut tut! let the man finish his yarn," from three or four points at once.

"I—I—I was only about to say, gentlemen," deprecated the apologetic little man, trying to catch his breath, "that when I was down here last winter I went out to Cape Florida an' caught the worst cold I ever had in my life. I ain't quite got over it yet."

Slowly the legs went back to the railing, and "oh!" "h'm!" "bah!" "pugh!" ran down the line. Then from inside came the clanging of the supper bell, and in the change of the current of their meditation the little man was enabled to steal away unperceived.

Eight Page Music 2 1-2 Cents Each.

Many of the pieces of full page sheet music advertised under our great music offer consist of eight full pages printed on heavy white paper and have colored covers. You can get ten pieces of music for 25 cents. Read COMFORT'S music offer.

The Norwegian Government monopolizes the sale of liquor in the country, and uses the proceeds for road-building.

Drunkenness Cured

The Remedy Can be Given in Tea, Coffee or Food, thus Absolutely and Secretly Curing the Patient in a Short Time Without His Knowledge.

This cure for Drunkenness has shed a radiance into thousands of hitherto desolate firesides. It does its work so silently and surely that while the devoted wife, sister or daughter looks on, the drunkard is reclaimed even against his will and without his knowledge or co-operation. The discoverer of thjs grand remedy, Dr. Haines, will send a sample of the remedy free to all who will write for it. Enough of the remedy is mailed free to show how it is used in tea, coffee or food and that it will cure the dreaded habit quietly and permanently. Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 624 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, O., and he will mail a free sample of the remedy to you, securely sealed in a plain wrapper, also full directions how to use it, books and testimonials from hundreds who have been cured, and everything needed to aid you in saving those near and dear to you from a life of degradation and ultimate poverty and disgrace.



MRS. JOHN M. HATTON.

Mrs. John M. Hatton, of Lebanon, Ohio, who a few months ago cured her husband with Golden Specific who had been a hard drinker for years, now writes us that she has also cured a near and dear relative and makes a most earnest appeal to all other women to save the drunkard.

Send for free trial today. It will brighten the rest of your life.

Tobacco Cure

A new remedy has been discovered that is odorless and tasteless can be mixed with coffee or food and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. A free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co., 178 Fifth & Race Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio. This will help any woman to solve the problem of curing her husband, son or brother of a habit that undermines the health leaving the body susceptible to numerous lingering and dangerous diseases.

Send no Money. $15.95 Ladies' or Men's **$15.95 Buys a $50 Homer Bicycle.**



The brand new 1899 model, made by the Kenmoar Steel Tube & Tire Co. to sell for $50. They failed a month ago. We bought from the receiver, Mr. Sam'l R. Armstrong, for spot cash all their famous high-grade $50 Homer Bicycles for less than 50 cents on the dollar from the actual cost of manufacturing. We offer them now for less than one-third the regular price.

THE HOMER Bicycle classes with the Columbia and other high-grade $50 bicycles and is insured by a written, binding guarantee. $50 was the Kenmoar Steel Tube & Tire Co.'s price for the Homer bicycle, not one cent less would buy it. They would not make a cheap bicycle even when $50 bicycles became almost a memory and the demand was largely for lower priced bicycles. It was a poor business policy and resulted in bankruptcy. We bought all the 1899 models, 2,500 in all, from the receiver, Mr. Armstrong, at an absurdly low price because we paid spot cash. We bought them cheap; we sell them cheap. $15.95 now buys the famous $50 Homer bicycle, made from the best Welsh seamless steel tubing, with latest arch Crown Fork, the simplest patent hanger ever made, large detachable highly nickeled sprockets, genuine Gilliam saddle, famous Regan pneumatic tires, full ball bearing. Your choice of men's 22 or 24-inch and ladies' 20 or 22-inch frame, any style handle bar, 68 to 96 gear and black, green or maroon colors. A complete set of tools free in fine leather tool bag.

SEND NO MONEY but send this adv., state if ladies' or gents' is desired and we'll send you an 1899 model $50 Homer bicycle by express C.O.D., subject to examination. When it arrives examine it critically and if found just as represented, a wonder bargain and fully equal to any $50 bicycle you ever saw, then pay the express agent our special price—$15.95 and expressage. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory, but refuse to accept it and it will be returned at our expense. Order quick—at $15.95 these $50 bicycles won't last long. Write for our Big Free Bicycle Catalogue.

THE LOUIS R. VEHON CO., 155-157 W. Jackson St., CHICAGO, ILL.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Just five minutes of your time will secure for you without money.

THIS BEAUTIFUL **SHIRT WAIST** ABSOLUTELY **FREE** AS A PRESENT.



No Money Needed.

The waist is made in the latest fashion exactly like cut. Made from fine white lawn with laundered cuffs and detachable collar complete and is worth $1.00 anywhere. Drop us a postal card for Form No. 1 which contains full particulars. It is the Most Unique Offer of the Century. REMEMBER just a penny postal will put you on the way to secure one of these shirt waists FREE.

AMERICAN CLOAK AND SUIT CO.,

Oposite Palmer House. Dept. N, 180 State Street, CHICAGO.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.



WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to $3.25, the equal of switches that retail at $2.00 to $8.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, $2.25; 3½-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, $3.25. WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,

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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

OPIUM HABIT AND **MORPHINE** Cured at home. Trial Free. No pain. Comp. Oxygen Ass'n, Fort Wayne, Ind.



CURTIN JEWELRY CO., Attleboro, Mass.

$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE



for selling only six of our Electric Porous Plasters. We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, etc., etc., and will send you six of our 25c. Plasters which you are to sell and return the money ($1.50) to us and we will send you, all charges paid, the elegant Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand $5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use. Every Woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address

THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

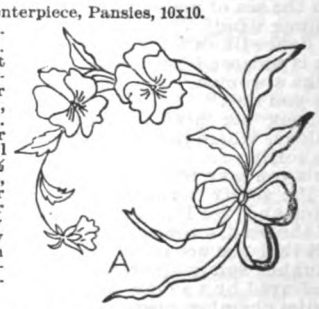
More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

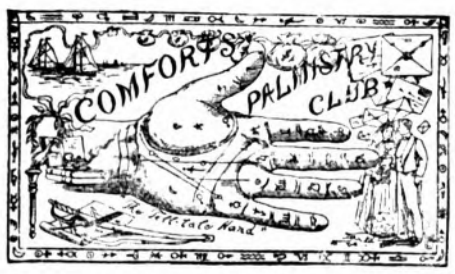
1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I HAVE a number of hands to be read this month and will therefore postpone answering the questions which have been sent me about various phases of palmistry work.

"Florence" sends two impressions which were not properly secured with the fixative. The right hand is so blurred that it is impossible to make out the lines, but the left hand is very fair and indicates a person of refinement with artistic temperament, strong will, but somewhat lacking in tact. She will, however, make many friends and is a person of excellent judgment, strong likes and dislikes, and a faithful and true friend to others. She has not a very strong constitution although I do not see marks of any severe illness on this impression. She will need to be exceedingly careful of her health between fifty and sixty, but if she pulls through that period will live to be quite old. In matters of the heart she has seen very little trouble and married quite young to the person of her first real choice. I think a second marriage is indicated not far from the age of forty-five which will last throughout her life and will be very happy. Of course, in making this prediction I am guided only by the impression of the left hand which might be modified by the right. I have repeatedly urged that those who send impressions should take the proper precautions to have them prepared exactly right. If these directions are not followed and the impressions do not reach me in a perfect condition I do not hold myself responsible for mistakes in readings. I can only read what I see. "Florence" has a high, pure nature, rather religiously inclined, and she will always live up to her principles under whatever conditions she may be placed. She is of a quiet, home-loving disposition and will not do much traveling. A strong friendship formed in early youth has been drawn away from her although it follows her at some distance throughout her life. As I said before, she will need to be very careful of her health from fifty on, even at forty-five there is danger of trouble. On the whole her hand is very fortunate and indicates a peaceful, happy life.



"FLORENCE."

"Maple Leaf" has a hand indicating a nervous type of character. The fingers denote a philosophic nature and a mind that can turn itself to any occupation it pleases. The thumb denotes a strong will and great tact so that he will be able to get along famously with all sorts of people and will command the love and respect of those with whom he has to deal. He has an artistic nature, is fond of music and of various kinds of sports. He lacks the perseverance, however, that is necessary to make a great success in the business world. He has good ideas of what ought to be done but has not the courage to go ahead and do what he really thinks he might do, that is if he conceives of a great undertaking he does not quite dare on second thought to carry it out. This is a characteristic of his nature which he will need to overcome and he should cultivate self reliance and perseverance. He will not marry the first of his loves and in fact his marriage will not take place until he is thirty or over. He will be attractive to the opposite sex, having many qualities which they admire. He has a peculiar temperament, however, and he will always yield to matters of judgment rather than to matters of the heart, that is, his affections will be made to take a second place when his judgment or reason leads him in an opposite direction. He has some ambition in life which will be gratified. He is best adapted to an outdoor life which will give him a free and open business and a chance to travel a great deal. His life line is not so long as I could wish and I would advise him to be exceedingly careful of his health from the age of thirty on. He will, as I have indicated, travel a great deal and usually with success. I don't see any indications of wealth, however, and while he will probably make a comfortable living he will never be what is called a wealthy man. I fear he has an irritable temper which he should early learn to get under control if he would avoid trouble in the future. It will depend largely upon himself whether he sees much trouble or not. If he learns to control his temper, keep himself calm and collected in all emergencies, and to develop his perseverance and courage, he will make a success in life.



"MAPLE LEAF."

"Disheartened" sends a hand which indicates a nervous type of character, one who is restless and unhappy by nature. She has very strong characteristics of mind and her disposition leads her to magnify her troubles. If she would learn to develop self-confidence and repose of character and mind she would be happier. At the same time, she has always had much to contend against. There have always been many interferences with her happiness and progress in life from relatives or friends who have been opposed to her or a drag upon her at every step of her way. At the same time she has persevered and improved her condition, making a steady advance from the beginning. Although she feels disheartened at present she should take courage as the prospects ahead are much brighter. After the age of thirty she will have much less of this sort of opposition and will meet with much encouragement and many changes for the better. I should judge that her first marriage was not particularly happy, that perhaps some one has come between her and her husband or that some obstacle has come to mar their happiness. This will not last very long. She has been more troubled by the sorrows and perhaps the disgrace of others than the world generally knows; in fact the sorrows which she is bearing or has borne have been quite as much those of others as of her own but she should hold onto her courage and keep up a good heart for this is not going to last and the last half of her life is much the brighter half. I think she will live to a good old age; I see no signs of anything else. She is a very ambitious woman and some of her ambitions at least will be fulfilled although there will be much to go through with before the end is accomplished. In matters of the heart she is a little inclined to be fickle and perhaps this is one cause of her unhappiness. She is inclined to diseases of the chest and throat but these will not prove fatal. She is also inclined to melancholia and she broods over troubles, especially those of the affections. This tendency she ought to strive to overcome and to be more philosophical in her views of life. She will travel a great deal and will derive considerable enjoyment from that but, as I have already said, the better part of her life is the last half so that she should not be discouraged or disheartened. The indications are that she will not be wealthy during the latter part of her life, but she will have plenty during her old age or even from fifty onward, also she will have a reputation for brilliancy and executive ability. On the whole, in spite of her discouragement and despondency at times, much of which is due to her temperament, hers is a fortunate hand and she will see much good luck before she reaches the end of a long life.



"DISHEARTENED."

"Spring" sends excellent impressions of her hands which indicate a person of strong character, one who is fond of music, company, dancing and pleasure generally. Her hand is a very lucky one, showing good health and a long life which will end in distinction or in great riches. She will have a checkered career, however, and will meet with much opposition from friends between the ages of childhood and thirty years. She will see some trouble with all her changes, but will in the main be happy and successful. She will marry at about twenty-five and will make a successful and happy marriage. The marriage will not be approved by her friends and will probably be to a stranger, perhaps from the old world, but it will prove a happy union although attended by romantic circumstances. I think she will outlive this husband and although she will have several offers she will not be married a second time. She will be left with money which will make her contented in her old age. I think she has talents which would make her very successful if she were to go on the stage in some light soubrette part and although she would have some difficulties to overcome in the beginning, she would be successful and would become noted. I think she will do something of this sort as the signs all point to her making a reputation either as a public performer on the stage, or as a public singer. She will travel a great deal and her journeys will be successful. If she inclines to take up a public career her friends will oppose it, but she should persevere because she would be sure to succeed. She will never be destitute but on the contrary will become wealthy and will enjoy much distinction after middle life. She will live to be at least three score years and ten. On the whole hers is a very lucky hand.



"SPRING."

Digitus

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

$5 to $30 HIGHEST GRADE **BICYCLES**

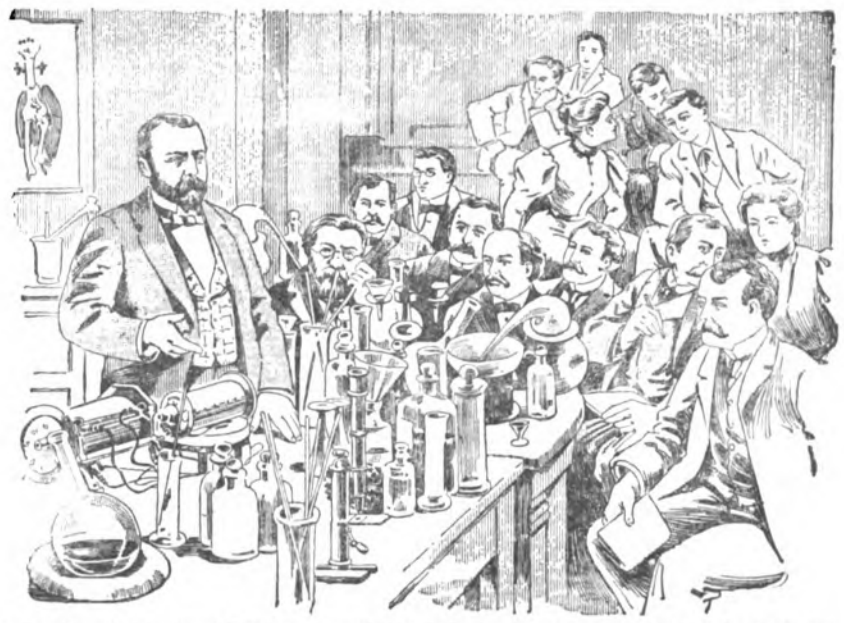


Grand clearing sale 3000 Bicycles. Over 50 different well known makes. new and second hand must be closed out; great opportunity for agents; new plan by which you can earn a bicycle. The Trust is bound to raise prices. Write at once for lists, going fast, the old and reliable Bicycle House Brown-Lewis Co., Dept. A. X. Chicago, Ills. 293 Wabash Ave. The above company is reliable—EDITOR.

WORK FOR boys and girls, spare time and vacation. $3 to $5 per day easily made. Write to-day for particulars to J. F. Welch. 2253 D Fifth Ave., New York.

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$75 Month and Expenses; no experience needed; position permanent; self-seller. PEASE MFG. CO., Station 33 Cincinnati, O.



WRITE FOR FREE TREATMENT FOR WEAK LUNGS

WEAK LUNGS are a menace to life that need attention.

Weak lungs are open to infection by the germs of pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, consumption; and, once attacked, are very difficult of cure.

Weak lungs show their existence by great sensitiveness to cold, blue, cold hands and feet, constant catching of colds on the least exposure, chronic coughs, sore throat, catarrh, etc.

Strong lungs, which keep the blood well oxygenated and the blood well nourished and full of natural heat, *prevent* cold catching, and are *proof against* the attacks of germs.

The Slocum New System of Treatment *builds* up weak lungs. Cures all lung diseases. Destroys germs. Oxygenates the tissues. Restores strength to the weak frame. Drives away chronic coughs, colds, catarrhs, asthma, etc.

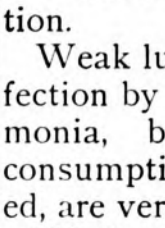
It can be *depended upon* to cure and to build up weak lungs.

It is the result of years of experience in a busy medical practice, and its beneficiaries are numbered by hundreds of thousands.

The above illustration shows the Doctor in his laboratory lecturing to medical men and students on the subject of his great discoveries.

To prove the value of his new system, he offers to send to all who write a *Complete Free Course of Treatment*, consisting of Four Preparations compounded in his laboratories according to his perfected formulæ, for the cure and prevention of all diseases of weak lungs, loss of flesh, etc.

Simply write, giving name and postoffice and express address, to Dr. T. A. Slocum, 98 Pine St., New York, stating that you saw this article in COMFORT, when the Four Free Preparations will be sent you.



A CLAM weighing two hundred and fifty pounds is somewhat of a novelty, yet in the South Pacific they do reach to this immense size. So solid are the shells that they can cut off a man's hand, if perchance it is thrust in when the shells are open; it has the habit of lying with its valves partly open, as though to trap anything that comes its way. On one occasion travelers saw an immense shark which was caught by the tail by one of these giant clams. There is also a case on record of a man being caught in a similar way. He was a collector and was searching for certain growth, and so had knives and tools with him. When he found himself trapped he tried with a knife to open the shells, or to make some impression on them, in spite of his great pain, but could not; the tide was rising and his only hope was that when the tide got high the clam would open its shells. This happened, though he had so long to wait that he had about decided to cut his hand off in order to free himself. As the shells parted he jerked out his hand, or what there was left of it, for it was crushed terribly, and made his way out of the water.

In the public schools in Switzerland "heat holidays" are recognized by law. When the thermometer goes above a certain point school is dismissed.

The smallest city in the world is Steward City, Alaska. Its three inhabitants are respectively mayor, chairman of the board of aldermen, and president of the common council.

Agents, Perfumes etc. on credit. Big Profit. Express Pd. Terms free. Herbene Co., Box 4, Station L, New York.

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COE'S ECZEMA CURE Large sample mailed free. COE CHEM. CO., Cleveland, O.



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Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending ur $1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us $1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

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Published Monthly at Augusta, Maine.

Boston Office, Hancock Building.

New York Office, Tribune Building. Chicago Office, Marquette Building.

Guaranteed Circulation:

ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES, Each and Every Issue,

Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

This is the time of year when everything but a thermometer should quit work.

Will it be contradictory for our Peace Commissioners to celebrate the glorious Fourth? The principles then proclaimed are as true as they are old.

There will be thirty-one days of "Fourths" this year if Dewey will only give a few states the chance. He really needs to go from New York to San Francisco to see just how we feel about it.

The qualities of the real old-fashioned Fourth of July orations have been transferred to the after dinner speeches at the many dinners in honor of those who "won out" in the late unpleasantness.

The man who moves the thought, the tears, and the laughter of the world by his pen is today the real king. The pen may or may not be mightier than the sword, but in this hurried century it certainly is greater than the scepter. Even royalty itself comprehends this. During a recent illness of the Duke of York he was touched by the notice that the papers gave to his health and by the hundreds of inquiries that poured in. "One would almost think I were Kipling," said the young heir to England's throne.

Fashion condescended to smile upon the bicycle in the days when it was a hundred dollar fun producer. Now the wise ones tell us she has withdrawn her approval. One needs but to cast his eyes about, however, to see how small a part the ultra fashionable section of this world is. There are still two divisions of humanity; those who wheel and those who do not. "Tom" Reed indicated the relative proportion by the dry humor of his answer to an inquiring collegian. The academic youth had come on to Washington to turn the headlight of his trained observation upon the workings of our government. Fate gave him an opportunity to cross question the august Speaker of the House. "Mr. Reed, in your estimation what is the great question of the moment that is absorbing the attention of the mighty masses of the American people?" "Well," said Reed, "as near as I can judge it is dodging bicycles." The number of those who furnish the masses the opportunity to dodge does not decrease.

Women may become athletic and aggressively intellectual and a voter and any number of other things that were not her "forte" of yore. She can not altogether outgrow the hereditary influences of barbarism. The chains and fetters that she won in a far-away time yet survive. The dog whirls round and round before he lies down, with a survival of the instinct that once taught him to break down the bushes around his resting place. Woman has taken the badges of her servitude and wears them proudly as chains and bracelets. Those of 1899 are heavy and barbaric enough to be suggestive of the slavery of the man who pays for all this weight of gold and silver. Various articles have dangled from the end of the fashionable chain, from the four leaved clover to a tiny whistle of gold or silver. One of the latest fads is a tiny flat charm of crystal which opens to receive a national flower. One can imagine all sorts of sentimental interest pertaining to this "little faded flower," but it is style rather than sentiment that moves the modern summer girl.

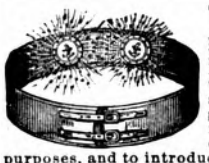
The time is not far distant when the public will demand that the men and women in whose hands they place their children for a large part of the year shall be cultured men and women. Cultured not alone through the training by books and study but with the wider culture given by contact with people and by travel. The increase in the salaries of teachers makes this possible. No stronger indication of the purpose of teachers to avail themselves of these opportunities can be given than the largely increasing attendance upon the National Educational Association. This union of the leading educators of the United States is held this year in Los Angeles. During July thousands of teachers are making the trip across the continent. The stimulation that comes from travel and change means far more than the benefit to be derived from association with the people who have national reputations in this line of work. Summer is becoming emphatically the convention time. The average hustling American cannot yet quite reconcile his conscience to a vacation purely for the sake of a vacation, but when he can attend some meeting in a distant part of the country he falls a victim to the combination of work and play that a summer association presents.

July closes the door of 230,000 public schools in this great land. Fourteen million of children are turned out into the air and sunshine. There are lessons in the wide school of Nature for those who have learned the alphabet of observation. The attention given to Nature studies in the schools gives to children an added opportunity to enjoy "out of doors." The child who is intelligently interested in plant and insect life is never without a means of enjoyment and profit. Too much cannot be said in favor of this movement towards training the child to observe the life about him. During the summer months Cornell University offers free tuition to teachers in Nature study. How to observe and how to teach others to observe and read from the book of Nature is well worth spending time over. Mothers often find a means of amusing children in teaching them to collect specimens of all the common plants and flowers. A leaf and a flower placed between sheets of blotting paper and then pressed under a weight, will furnish a beautiful specimen. One child became intensely interested in such work. The common name of the specimen was given and then the place where it was found. Two or three lines of poetry descriptive of the flower were then added and the result was a pleasing record of a pleasant summer. It is a means of amusement but no less a means of education.

Students of sociology note with growing concern the movement of population toward the cities. They often fail to note the fact that the swing of the pendulum that way is followed by a corresponding swing in the direction of more interest in out-door life. The change in this direction is quite as marked as the tendency of population cityward. Out of door sports—golfing, bicycling, riding, driving and hunting, yachting, etc.—never received so much attention. This side is considered by the optimist. It cannot fail to be observed that the most enthusiastic devotees of "out of doors" are city people. The country people often know less of the charms of the "country that God made" than the man or woman whose time is largely spent in town. This follows the time-proved theory that we do not see nor appreciate the sights that are nearest to us. Nowhere is this more noticeable than on the farms. How many people who live on a farm ever spend a moment in the woods? The average woman upon a farm rarely leaves the house except to drive to town upon some errand. Her life is spent indoors far more than is the life of her city sister. The gospel of relaxation by contact with Nature needs no advocate in a city. Every flag stone and brick wall pleads its cause. The country woman shuts much out of her life that would add grace and beauty were it thoroughly understood. A hammock under the trees, a work table in some shady spot will change toil to pleasure. Half the farm houses of our land have no piazzas or arrangements for sitting out of doors. People do not see that this can bring something real and tangible in the way of pleasure into their lives. Live out of doors. What if you must work! Half of it can be done out of doors if it is once thought of. Set the tea table under the trees. Avail yourselves of the pleasure that lies all around you. Look at the panorama of hills, forests, meadows and streams, not with eyes that are unseeing through very familiarity but as one would look at a rare painting. New beauties will develop through attention. We are too busy, too much the creatures of habit and work to appreciate freely the grace that God has given to the world about us. Return to first conditions and live more under the open sky. Life was never meant to be circumscribed by four walls.

On July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson, the great founder of democracy breathed his last. Seventy-three years have passed since then and on July 4, 1899, the American nation may well pause and examine some of the most significant facts of our history. Within the year past we have acquired territory that enables us to say literally that the sun never sets upon the stars and stripes. With the great increase of territory it is natural to examine some of the conditions of our early territorial acquisitions. When Jefferson became President the United States extended westward to the Mississippi river and south to the Gulf of Mexico and Florida. Jefferson was a close constructionist, believing in limiting the powers of the Federal government to those expressly stated in the Constitution. The purchase of the vast territory of Louisiana burst upon the people like a thunder clap. It was patent that the Constitution gave no such power to the general government. Jefferson declared that he stretched his power until it cracked and advised an amendment to the Constitution, giving the power to purchase territory. Jefferson showed how the true statesman is not bound by any written or unwritten law when he declared, "I believe that the people wish this done." The will of the people was the foundation stone of Jefferson's principles. He read the Constitution as he believed the people would wish it interpreted, that is, with an idea of close limitation of the powers delegated to a general government, but when public policy seemed to demand a seeming contradiction of his principles he did not hesitate. This purchase and acquisition of territory furnished a precedent that has been followed. The purchase of Florida, the immense acquisition from the Mexican war, the Gadston purchase and the Alaska purchase comprise the land acquired by purchase. Texas and Hawaii were acquired by annexation. The Mexican cession like the Philippines was acquired by conquest, with the addition of a money consideration. Porto Rico alone was acquired entirely by conquest. It is interesting to remember the man who died nearly three-quarters of a century ago, but to whom we owe the precedent of the power of the United States to acquire territory.

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187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
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1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
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71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
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107	Ethel Polka	Simons
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69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
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147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
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157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
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9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
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105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
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98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
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132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
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96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
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118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
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62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
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Tempo di Schottische. *Slow.*

1. De gold en moon am shin-in', De stars am twink-lin' bright, Ma
2. Can't help but lub dat nig - ger, I knows he's all ma own. I

mf *rit. . . . . slow.*

good - ness, I'se so hap - py cose I'm wid ma man to - night. He am de ad - mi - ra - shun ob all de coons in town. I
al - ways wants him, 'deed I do, I hates to be a - lone. Dis gal is nigh gone cra - zy, dat coon has set de time. Dars

rit.

knows he lubs dis ba - by fo' he's al - ways hang - in' roun.' Says he to me, "Miss 'Li - za, I kind a like yo' style, If you hab no ob - jec-shun, I'll
gwine to be a wed - din' soon, dat man will all be mine. Ise writ de in - va - ta-shuns, Ise turn'd no nig - ger down, De col - lud pop - u - la - shun will

hang a - roun' a - while"; "Ob cose I ain't, ma hon-ey," says I to Mis - tah Coon, An den he takes his ban - jo, an sings to me dis tune:
come fo' miles a - roun'; We'll hab de good ole cake-walk, an cut de pig - eon wing, An when dey stops a danc - in', I'll get ma man to sing:

rit.

CHORUS.

Slow and plaintively.

"Hon - ey, you'se ma lit - tle lump ob sweetness, 'deed you sets ma heart on fire; 'Tain't no use de - ny - in', for yo' lub I'm sigh - in', You'se

p

1 rit. *2 rit.*

jes de sort ob coon dat I ad - mire. I ad - mire. Ma Li - za, 'm - 'm - hon - ey, 'deed I lubs you, 'deed I do."

rit. *rit.*

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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

IT seems strange that any bicycler should need to ask what the letters "L. A. W." stand for, yet I have inquiries occasionally. Nothing could be more significant of the phenomenal growth of cycling than its invasion into the ranks of many large and prominent organizations.

The League of American Wheelmen is naturally the official organization of the wheelmen and wheelwomen of the United States. All members of the League are over twenty-one years old. The great army of unconnected riders are almost to a unit in favor of anything that will tend to give to riders the rights that the L. A. W. is fighting for, so it will readily be seen that the L. A. W. is an important organization in our national life.

In the fall of 1888 there appeared in one of the leading bicycle salesrooms of New York a wheel that excited an equal amount of curiosity in the ranks of the riders of the high wheel, or ordinary. It was an English model of the safety, with 30-inch wheels, solid tires and a frame of the "boneshaker" variety.

In 1889 the American manufacturers succumbed to the demand for the low wheel and for two years the struggle for supremacy between the high and low wheels engaged the attention of the cycling fraternity. It was an unequal fight, however, and in 1892, upon the introduction of the cushion tires the ordinaries were relegated to the attics or sold to second-hand dealers at a heavy discount. The acme of cycling enjoyment was reached in 1893 when pneumatic tires were placed on the market.

From that time the advance of the sport was rapid. The number of riders within the boundaries of what is now greater New York was estimated at 10,000 in 1891, of which number about fifty were women who, mounted upon the old solid-tired wheels, braved the storm of adverse criticism and ridicule and prayed for the emancipation of short skirts and bloomers that has attended the progress of the up-to-date woman. To-day the number of riders in greater New York alone is estimated at 200,000, of which one-third are women, while there are at least two hundred bicycle dealers, and about one hundred more handle wheels as a side line. And this only one city, although a large one. What must we aggregate throughout the country! That the business has gone beyond the stage of a passing caprice and is firmly rooted among the leading industries of the country is evidenced by the high standing and business solidity of the firms handling bicycles. But a few years ago the wheels were handled almost exclusively by bicycle dealers while now you see wheels in the windows everywhere, and the evolution of the "chainless" has given us a new type and materially reduced the price of all bicycles. But we haven't reached the end yet. There are many practical bicycle experts who believe in the ultimate perfection of a unicycle which will make the "safety" of 1896 as much out of date as the high wheel of 1876 appears to be to-day. One of these inventive enthusiasts is Andrew Munro of New York, a mechanic, who has designed many accepted improvements in the bicycles of to-day. An illustration is given of his unicycle, which has been patented, and more than that ridden upon.

It consists of a single wheel with pneumatic tire, surmounted by a saddle which is adjusted to an upright forked rod from the axle; a peripheral frame extending from near the ground at the back to a short distance in front of the saddle, to which are attached two small flanged friction wheels having slotted bearings adjustable by thumb screws and which exert unequal pressures on the tire surface. The rear flanged wheel is adjustably adherent to the tire, first, to furnish a sustaining point of contact with the main wheel; second, to prevent the backward rotation of the peripheral frame when loaded, and, third, to insure the vertical position of the saddle support.

The front flanged wheel is free—first acting as a brake in connection with the lever, second acting as a flanged guide wheel, and third, acting as an adjunct to the steering gear.

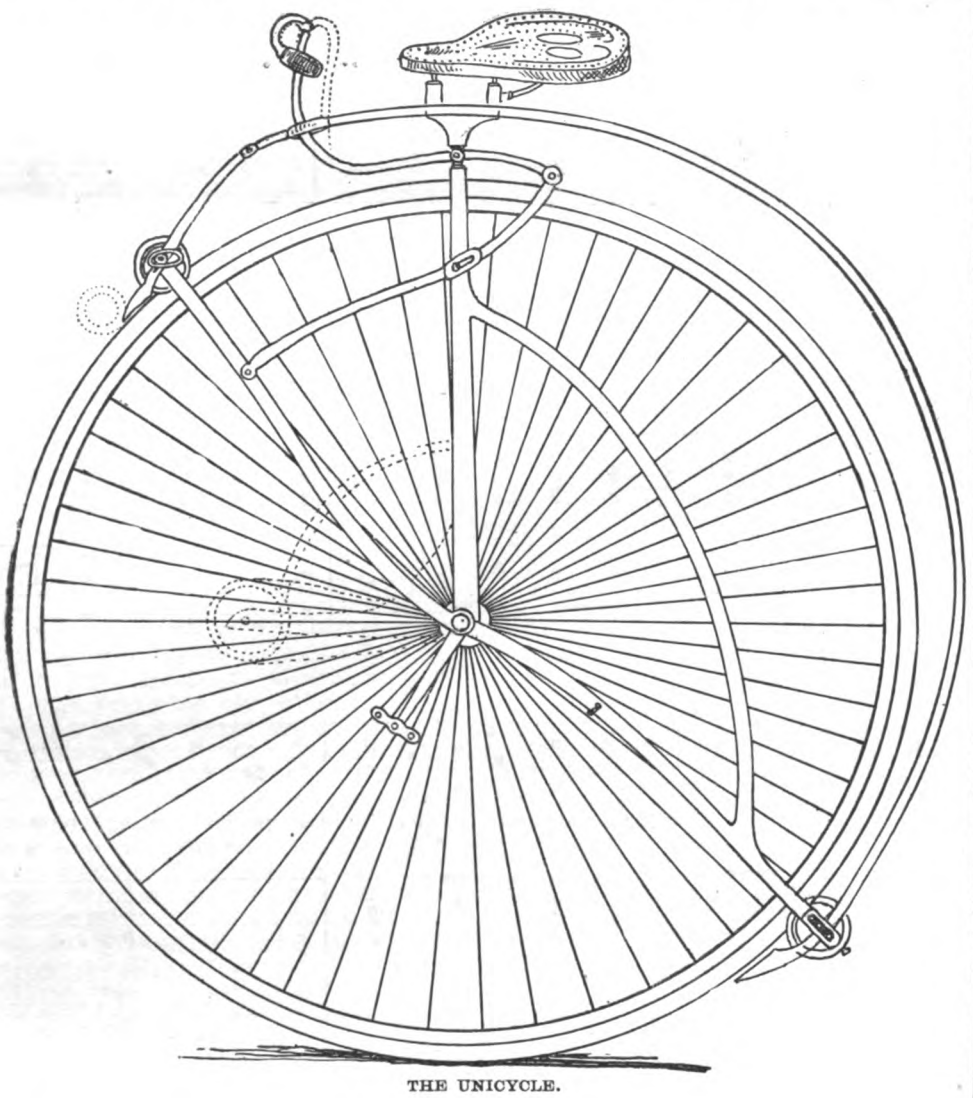
The adjustment of the saddle is arranged to permit the placing of the loadweight at a sufficient angle to the upright rod to counteract the forward gravitating movement acquired by the motion of the wheel as well as that due to frictional contact of the rear flanged wheel on the tire and any tendency to rotate the frame forward is immediately checked by the impact of the rear wheel on the tire as well as the depression of the forward wheel.

The peripheral rod is jointed to a small rod connecting with the forward flanged wheel. The object of this is to use the small wheel both as brake and steering gear. The handle bar is firmly attached to a curved rod which passes through a groove in the peripheral rod where it is secured by a bolt, and it extends some distance beyond, making a connection with a lateral rod which slides in a groove on an upright and serves to depress the forward lateral friction rod, causing the flanged wheel to press upon the tire surface as a brake.

The unicycle is operated both by pedals attached to an axle and by sprocket wheel and chain, a projection of the lateral rods serving as an attachment for the sprocket bearings. Its weight, eighteen pounds, is due to an increase of twelve inches in the diameter of the wheel and to the additional sprocket wheel and chain.

With the increased diameter and the sprocket attachment it is predicted that a revolution will be inaugurated in present racing records and extraordinary feats in fancy riding will be accomplished.

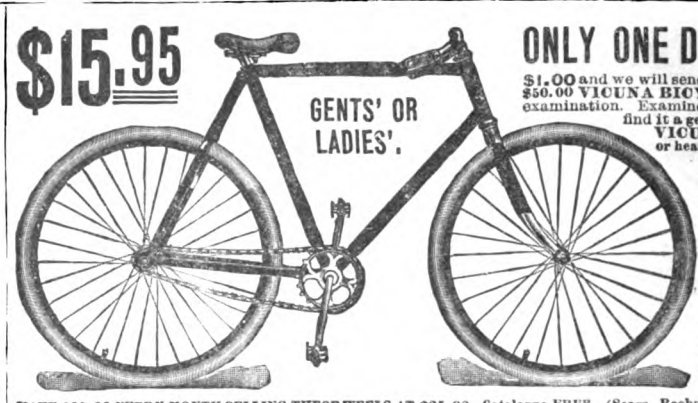
Anyway, it is plain that we have not reached the end of all inventions yet; and doubtless the Paris Exposition next year will show us many new things.



THE UNICYCLE.

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We have it for you and will send you one only, on receipt of the above amount in stamps. On account of the Bankruptcy of a large concern are we able to offer you this great bargain. These Fountain Pens are in a fine aluminum hexagon case all filled ready for use, and if you are supplied with one, you are never at a loss when desiring to sign your name or write an order. It is not a toy but a practical article for every man and woman, and within the reach of every school boy and girl. Try one and you will want your friends to share your pleasure with you. They are invaluable to School Teachers, Lumbermen, Boys who drive a delivery team, and Telegraph Messenger Boys. **Send 17 cents**, and we mail you one securely wrapped and guarantee satisfaction, and also give you a three months' subscription to **Comfort** with each **Pen**. Send to-day to Pen Department, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



$15.95 **ONLY ONE DOLLAR DOWN** Cut this ad. out and send to us with $1.00 and we will send you this HIGH GRADE 1899 MODEL $50.00 VICUNA BICYCLE by express C. O. D. subject to examination. Examine it at your express office, and if you find it a genuine 1899 model High Grade $50.00 VICUNA, the grandest bargain you ever saw or heard of, and you are convinced it is worth $10.00 to $15.00 more than any wheel advertised by other houses up to $25.00, pay your express agent the balance, $14.95 and express charges. **THE VICUNA** IS COVERED BY A BINDING GUARANTEE. Frame is 22 or 24 inch, made from best seamless tubing, finest two-piece Benton hanger, finest full ball bearings, Mason arch crown, enameled black, green or maroon, highly nickel finished, Delhi padded saddle, up or down turn handle bars, best Doyle pedals, HIGH GRADE GUARANTEED REGAL PNEUMATIC TIRES, fine leather bag, complete with all tools and repair outfit. ORDER TODAY, YOU CAN MAKE $50.00 EVERY MONTH SELLING THESE WHEELS AT $25.00. Catalogue FREE. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable)—Editor.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Fulton, Desplaines & Wayman Streets, **CHICAGO.**



A VISITOR to the gulf coast makes the statement that the pearl crop is worth from one-quarter of a million to a million dollars every year. The largest pearl ever found here was sold to the Emperor of Austria for ten thousand dollars. La Paz is the headquarters of the pearl industry, and from there the pearls are sent to the great jewel markets of the world, which are in London and Paris. The demand for fine pearls is always far ahead of the supply.



A CARTRIDGE beer mug is one of the latest fads of a fashionable New York jeweler. The mugs are made from empty six-pound shells, which are a little more than three inches in diameter at the base and slightly narrower at the top. The opening is large enough to drink from comfortably. They are of brass, to stand the strain put upon them at the moment of explosion, and this brass will take a higher polish than the poorer grades of the metal, so that the mugs shine like gold. The only decoration is a silver band on the front, on which is engraved the history of the cartridge. Of course there are handles to these mugs.

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One hundred and twenty-five Favorite Song Jewels. A large book of music containing words and score of the latest popular songs sung in the theaters and churches everywhere. Comic, Sentimental, Pathetic and Religious. This great collection would cost from $15 to $20 in the usual sheet music form. The best collection for home and concert use ever published. We will give the book as a FREE present to any person sending us six cents in stamps for a trial three months' subscription to our sparkling, monthly paper which we are introducing into 100,000 new homes this season.

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



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Gold Shell Rings FREE. We have a large lot of fine quality Band Rings such as here illustrated, they are 14k gold plate shell and will wear a long time. To introduce our monthly into new homes we will send one ring either style free if you enclose 25c. for a year's subscription to our paper. This monthly is one of the best published for either young or old. Address GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

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We have just issued a Twenty-Five Cent Book of Splendid Stories, all kinds, representing Love, Romance, Thrilling Adventures, &c., &c. We desire to introduce our publications more widely, and in order to do so will send the whole lot of 105 Stories for only two 2-cent stamps if ordered **Now.** Here are some of the titles of the stories in this great lot:

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No. 1. One Good Size Fine Polished Brass Reel. Will wind any line in first-class style. Works perfectly.

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No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs. **RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED** by **Oxien** the **triumph** of **medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. **FREE.** This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to COMFORT, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
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Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

E. W. Early,	**$3.00**
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DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

How fast the months fly by! And now it is July, and too hot to read even a little bit of moralizing, so I am going to have mercy on my readers and start directly on our letter-reading. The first letter which turns up comes from "Old Virginia," and takes us away back to the early days in the Colonies in its reminiscences of Williamsburg.

"Amongst the numerous objects of interest in Williamsburg, the old Colonial Capital of Virginia, may be reckoned William and Mary College, the oldest college in the United States except Harvard. Its charter dates back to 1693, and it was named in honor of William of Orange and his wife Mary,



COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY.

who were the reigning sovereigns of England at that time. It was the first college in this country to introduce the modern system of class lectures, and to have chairs of law, modern languages and history, also the first to announce the elective system of study, and to award medals, viz. the Botetourt medal. On its rolls we find the names of many distinguished professors and students, and amongst its Chancellors are the names of Washington, Tyler and other illustrious men. The Brafferton School, which used to be an adjunct to William and Mary College, was originally built and endowed for the purpose of educating Indian youth, but it proved unsuccessful, as the minds of the young Indians had a much stronger bent towards warfare and the chase than towards study.

"The library of William and Mary College, which is adorned with many interesting portraits and relics of the past, contains about ten thousand volumes, some of them very valuable.

"It was in the old Williamsburg Capitol which was burned down in 1832, that Patrick Henry uttered his thrilling words, 'Cæsar had his Brutus, Charles First his Cromwell, and George the Third may profit by their example.' Here also the Speaker of the House told Washington that 'his modesty equalled his merit.'

"Not far from here is the site of the old Raleigh Tavern which was destroyed by fire in 1860. Washington, Jefferson, Henry and other old heroes used to make this tavern their stopping place and rendezvous. Williamsburg claims the credit of having established the first asylum in this country exclusively for the insane. Special wards used to be set apart for the insane in other hospitals before separate asylums were provided for them.

"The first theatrical performance ever given in this country took place in Williamsburg. I have read in a number of the Virginia Gazette dated September 22, 1752, the following notice: 'On Friday last, the company of Comedians from England opened the theater in this city where The Merchant of Venice and The Anatomist were performed before a numerous and polite audience, with great applause.' I am not certain whether this was the first play ever performed there, but I am inclined to think it was."

M. W. EARLY, Wingina, Nelson Co., Va.

Now let us visit our southern friends again.

"Florida, the southernmost of the United States, first settled in 1565 at the place afterwards called St. Augustine, was discovered and explored by Ponce de Leon in 1512. He was hunting the fabled fountain of immortal youth. We are sorry that he did not explore the beautiful, sparkling Silver Spring, whose stream unites with the famous Ocklawaha, and afterwards with the St. Johns.

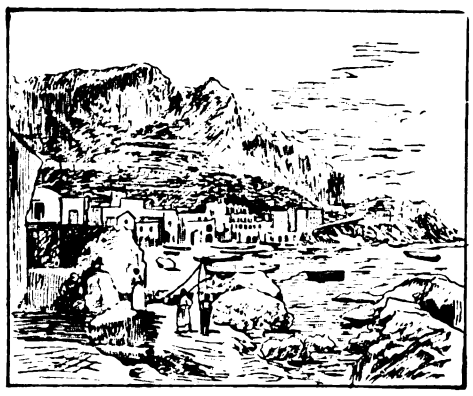
"Florida is rich in large deposits of phosphates, hence mining furnishes much occupation for her people. Fruit growing forms another of her great industries. Such fruits as the orange, guava, pineapple, pear, plum, and peach are mostly grown. There are large forests of beautiful trees, such as the oak, pine, maple, cedar, and many others, in which the mocking bird sings all winter long, for our climate is generally warm and pleasant all the year round." MARY F. HODGE, Heather, Fla.

Mary Simmons, of Connie, Chehalis Co., Wash., says: "I have taken COMFORT for ten years and I like it. I have some religious papers to give away if any of the cousins care for them."

Now let us, in imagination, take a sea voyage and land in beautiful Italy. We shall certainly enjoy the description of the cool "Blue Grotto," even if Naples and Sorrento do seem warm for the season.

"In Naples the regulation breakfast is coffee, with hot milk, three different kinds of bread, unsalted butter and honey. After breakfast we took a steamer for the Island of Capri. Here the boat waits while the passengers are taken in little skiffs into the Blue Grotto. This is a sort of watery cave in the rock. The entrance is very small and semicircular in shape. The passenger slides down in the boat under the board seats, and the boatman takes hold of the upper part of the rock, and as a big wave dashes in he ducks his body very cleverly back and pulls the boat in. Inside everything is blue, the most peculiar blue that you can imagine. The sunlight seems to come through from the bottom of the water, and a boy in swimming is reflected on the wall.

"After visiting the Grotto we went to the town of Capri, where the steamer remains while we lunch and drive through the town and up the mountain side, which gives a fine view of the bay and the surrounding country. The roads here are all made of smooth stone and are very good. Along the wayside, in apparently the wildest places, are niches hewn out of the solid rock, in each of which is the marble statue of some saint which the people worship by laying flowers and other offerings at their feet. Above the heads of the statues are lamps which are lighted at night. All these, with beautiful fig, orange and lemon trees growing in abundance, tend to make the scene picturesque, while in the distance are plainly to be seen the ruins of the castle of Tiberius, which is at the eastern extremity of the island.



CAPRI, ITALY.

"Leaving Capri, we took the steamer to Sorrento. There are about a dozen hotels here and each one sends off small boats to meet the steamer; the greatest confusion prevails, and you are relieved when you are safely landed. This place is celebrated as the birthplace of the poet Tasso, and you find him everywhere—from the butter pat to the marble bust.

"Our hotel had formerly been an old castle, built on the edge of the rocks overhanging the bay; the other three sides encircling the most ideal court and gardens imaginable. We walked through tunnels hewn out of the solid rock by the Romans centuries ago; emerging from the darkness into sunlight and flowers, only to make another turn into another tunnel, then up broad marble steps through odd passages until we reached the sixth story where were our rooms. The Garden of Eden could not have been lovelier than this one in Sorrento. We wandered along mossy paths, amid stately palms and magnificent lemon trees with long, glossy leaves and yellow fruit, and among rose trees which were in the full beauty of their bloom. Suddenly we would come upon a rustic arbor, a marble vase or a statue, or perhaps, ascending marble steps overhung with orange blossoms come to a court in which was a party of young men and women dressed in bright-colored costumes dancing the national dance, the Tarantell. This dance belongs to Sorrento, and is a sort of quadrille, the girls using tambourines and the men bones. They dance about and around each other, with the most charming bows, poises, and grace imaginable. It is all careless, bright, and apparently enjoyable, and the picture is an ideal one."

BELLE T. OSBORNE, Atlantic, Iowa.

I have read with interest S. H. Carnahan's letter on "The Schools of the Prophets," but do not find it quite suited to our page.

I also thank Bert B. Cook for the story he sent me, but as my page is not for stories I cannot use it.

We certainly have the advantage of most travelers, for we can transfer ourselves from Sorrento to the St. Lawrence River at a moment's warning, and we shall doubtless enjoy the change from foreign lands to our own country. I, for one, am always ready to sing "Home, Sweet Home."

"Let me tell your readers of our Thousand Isles of the river St. Lawrence. 'Thousand Isles' they are called, though river guides say that there are more than double that number now, owing to the low water in the river. I live upon one of these islands—Grindstone—so called by the Indians on account of the excellent quality of the stone found here for use as grindstones. This stone is red granite, and is said to be the finest in the world. It cannot be excelled for monumental purposes or for street paving. The quarries have been worked extensively in the past, but are now lying idle owing to the inability of the Company to compete with the Asphalt Company. Still, we feel confident that people will soon learn that granite, although expensive at first, is far more durable for street paving than asphalt, and so our quarries will again be worked.

"We have a road through the center of our island called the 'Base-Line.' This was formerly the boundary line between the United States and Canada. In later years a new survey was made and a boundary line was placed on our northern coast. In the Patriot War of 1837-38 this island was made the hiding place of a number of leaders of the rebellion. In later years their secret hiding place was revealed.



PULLMAN ISLAND, THOUSAND ISLES.

"As every one knows, this river is one of the most famous summer resorts in the world, and bears the name of the 'Rhine of America.' With its beautiful scenery and excellent fishing the river islands have nearly all been purchased and improved. Wealth has been lavishly expended on them. One of the many lovely homes here is 'Castle Rest,' the summer home of the late palace car king, Mr. Pullman. The castle and towers are built of stone in the rough, just as it was gathered up from the earth, in every conceivable shape, and laid by the masons without any use of a hammer in the construction. A more irregular surface can scarcely be conceived, but though very odd it is also very beautiful. Some have taken small rocks projecting from the water, encircled them with a sea-wall of rough stone and filled the space so enclosed with earth on which they have planted trees.

"Last year the State Department, finding that the islands were all passing into private hands, leaving none for use as public parks, reserved for itself several spots for such use, and have now transformed them into well shaded parks with good landing facilities which are open to all."

MRS. ADDIE CUMMINGS, GRINDSTONE, N. Y.

The following description of an old-time ocean voyage sounds oddly enough to us who are accustomed to the modern steamer.

"Will you admit a new niece to your charming circle? I wonder if any of the nieces and nephews ever crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel? Such a trip would be quite a novelty in these days of fast steamers. It has been my good fortune to have taken two such voyages—one, made when a little girl of nine or ten, I want to tell you about.

"We went from New York to Buenos Ayres, S. A. We started in January, and the ship had to be cut out of the ice in the harbor. Not long after leaving New York a dreadful storm arose, and I distinctly remember hearing the dishes falling out of the shelves as the ship lurched from side to side, the cabin table—which was fastened to the floor—go over with a crash. But he who controls both wind and wave brought us safely through; and after that we had delightful weather, reaching Montevideo in thirty-eight days after leaving New York; a very quick passage for a sailing vessel. From there we took a river steamer up to Buenos Ayres.

"Two incidents of this voyage are vividly impressed on memory, one is my tenth birthday which came a few weeks after leaving New York. The captain hoisted all the flags on the ship, fired off a small cannon he had on board and ordered a plum pudding for dinner in honor of the event. The other incident was the visit of Neptune on crossing the 'line'. As we approached the equator the captain used to talk mysteriously of the coming of Neptune to initiate the passengers into his domain, and on the day we crossed the line a small boat appeared at the ship's side and some strange-looking men fantastically dressed came on board; and the leader, after whispering with the captain, came to the passengers and pretended to read a long paper and take their names, telling them they must be initiated, but finally let them off, and seizing the cabin boy took him to the lower deck where stood a tub of water with a plank across it; after blacking his face they blindfolded him and set him on the plank, which one of their number tipped up, giving him a ducking. Of course it was the sailors dressed up who had lowered a boat and rowed around the ship pretending to be Neptune and his followers. At night they set a barrel on fire and threw it overboard, the captain telling us it was old Neptune going off to visit other ships.

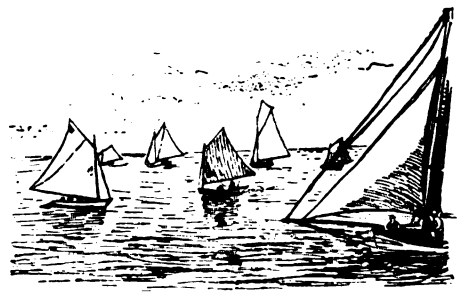
"Over six years later, when we returned, our voyage lasted nearly *three months* from the time we left Rosario, on the banks of the Parana, in May, till we reached Boston about the middle of July, and a most delightful trip it was; no storms, but fair weather nearly all the way. We saw lots of flying fish, porpoises, and one or two large whales. Then at night we saw myriads of those wonderful little animalcules that shine with a phosphorescent light making the sea appear as if it was on fire all around the ship. We also sailed through the Sargasso sea, where the ship is surrounded with vast quantities of seaweed. I should like to tell the cousins something of the customs in that far off land, but my letter is already too long." J. M. CARTER, Delhi, N. Y.

Our next letter is a description of a typical summer amusement, boat-racing, but this southern race is, in some respects, different from those at the north.

"An event of much interest to the pleasure-loving people along our coast is the annual regatta that takes place during August or September at Bay St. Louis, Miss. During the preceding month the boats are repaired, repainted and made to look as trim as possible before being entered for the races. A fee of $5—more or less, according to the class of boats—is charged for entering a boat for a race, and this money is used to buy the prizes and also to keep up the club-house and the expenses of a regatta. The prizes are medals, money and silver cups and sometimes other things.

"The day of the regatta is a gala one indeed, and is eagerly looked forward to from year to year and the town is crowded with able and ardent yachtsmen and visitors from all the coast towns and nearby cities.

"Of course the success of the races depends upon the good winds, and these are found to be most favorable in the early afternoon. The boats are numbered and it is a pretty sight to watch them—large and small—with their snow white sails making them look like great birds flying over the water.



REGATTA AT BAY ST. LOUIS.

"Managers time the start of each race, and halfway of the course is a stake boat and as each sailing boat passes her a record of the time made is registered and given the judges at the close of the races. All kinds of boats are allowed to compete. The Mobile Yacht Club and the celebrated Southern Yacht Club of New Orleans, send entries to this regatta; pleasure yachts, coal and lumber schooners, cat boats and many others enter the races and in each class a prize is offered for the fastest sailing boat.

"When the boats come in what cheering for the winners! and after there are suppers on board the yachts and a grand ball is given at the largest hotel or at the club house, which is built over the water half a mile from shore. Smaller dances are given at private homes and these places are decorated with numerous flags and gayly colored Chinese lanterns and when these are lighted at night the places look like fairy land. The prizes are awarded amid cheers and hearty good will, refreshments are served and 'the play is over' at a late hour."

LOUELLA SPENCE, Pass Christian, Miss.

Our next letter tells us of the construction of a broom, but our cousin does not tell us where she has seen them made, so we must guess at that.

"Did you ever see a broom made? The broom-corn is cut, just above the smooth stem, into equal lengths, after the seed is thrashed or shaken out. A little machine is used, with a spool of fine strong wire attached. To this machine, through a groove, the handle is fastened and the wire made firm. Then a quantity of cut corn is taken up and wired around one end to form a handle, the wire being wound firmly and straightly, till the broom is of the requisite thickness. The last layers are left with the top of the stalk split and adjusted so that the wire can be turned in a fanciful manner and fastened to the wood handle."

ELIZABETH J. WILSON, Beverly, Mass.

"It was the day before Oklahoma was to be declared open for settlement. For months people had been coming in from every direction toward the free land. The streets of Winfield and Arkansas City were thronged and the prairie schooners formed one continuous line from Winfield to Arkansas City—a distance of fifteen miles, along the boundary line which divided Kansas from No Man's Land.

"Night came on and there was not much abatement of the tumult. The moon shone clear and bright and at intervals all night long the clattering of horses' hoofs could be heard and a man, sometimes two or five would come in sight and gallop off down into the promised land.

"The next day, before the signal gun was fired to declare Oklahoma open for settlement, thousands of men, women and children, restless with suspense and strained almost to frenzy with excitement and expectation, were ready to rush pell mell into the declared land for a claim.

"At last the signal was given and a regular stampede commenced, each trying to be first to get to the best claims. Carts were upset, wheels snatched from wagons and people trampled under foot in the melee. The first claim was taken by a woman, who, rushing across the line with a large flag in her hand planted it upon a splendid claim, then shouted wildly, 'This claim is taken!'

"Ere the sun set on that day every claim that was of any worth was taken and some claims had two and three contestants. Some got their rights and some did not."

GEORGE JOHNSON, Burlington, Kan.

I must thank for letters received Mrs. Donald Macaulay, Chester Co., Ga.; Mrs. Jack Bolling, Hartshorne, Ind. Ter.; Miss Jane Dean and John Bertrand.

Now my space is full and I think, too, that my readers have all they can enjoy at one time in this hot weather, so I will bid you all good-by for another month. AUNT MINERVA.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

$7 PAID Per 100 and Expenses for distributing samples of ammonia. Send 6c stamps for last. A. M. SCOTT, Coboes, N. Y. 10 million circulars for dist. in cities and towns **ALSO**

MONEY to patent good ideas may be secured by our aid. THE PATENT RECORD, Baltimore, Md.

G. C. S. A. MONEY Valuable Information Free. LEE CO., NEW YORK CITY.

$5.00 CASH per 1000 paid to Distribute Circulars. Enclose 4 stamps. World Adv. Assc'n, Chicago.

BIG PAY for DISTRIBUTING SAMPLES EVERYWHERE. SALARY AND EXPENSES TO TRAVEL. ENCLOSE STAMP. DISTRIBUTING BUREAU, NO. 148 LIBERTY ST., NEW YORK.

LOOK. A Pipe that cannot be told from a cigar. Sample by mail 6 cts. N. E. PIPE CO., Stamford, Ct.

SUGAR 2 1-2c. lb. pkgs. Coffee 10c. Bar Soap 1c. 20 Envelopes 1c. Silk Ties 8c Knee-pants 12c. Caps 9c. Shoes 23c. Boys' suits 79c. All goods 1-3 value. Bargain list FREE. DOUGLAS COMPANY, Worcester, Wis.

FITS EPILEPSY. Its *only* sure treatment. I insure an entire and rapid cure, to stay cured for life! I ask no fee. DR. KRUSE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

SILK Scraps, large pkg. 10c. 4000 Gilt Pattern Diagrams 10c. 100 crazy stitches with order. Ladies' Art Co., B. 5, St. Louis, Mo.

DETECTIVE. Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders; no experience necessary. For full particulars write American Detective Ass'n, Indianapolis, Ind.

AGENTS WANTED for "The Life and Achievements of Admiral Dewey," the world's greatest naval hero, by Murat Halstead. Only $1.50. Outfit free. NATIONAL PUB. CO., 216 Clark St., Chicago.

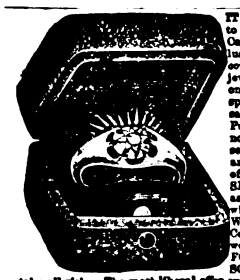
ASTHMA Instant relief and positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. F. G. KINSMAN, M. D., Box 721, Augusta, Maine.

CHILD LOST For 18 years. Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box Q, 245, Saratoga, New York.

DON'T BE HARD UP $2,000 A YEAR EASY



Gold, Silver, Nickel and Metal Plating. Gents and Ladies at home or traveling, taking orders, using and selling Prof. Gray's Platers. Plates, Watches, Jewelry, Tableware, Bicycles, and all metal goods. No experience, heavy plate, modern methods. We do plating, manufacture outfits, all sizes. Guaranteed. Only outfits complete, all tools, lathes, materials, etc., ready for work. We teach you the art, furnish secrets and formulas FREE. Write Today. Testimonials, samples, &c., FREE. C. GRAY & CO., PLATING WORKS, 8, CINCINNATI, O.



IT WILL NOT COST YOU ONE CENT to secure a Solid GOLD laid Bolivian Carbon DIAMOND Gem RING, here illustrated. A ring similar in appearance could not be bought of any first-class jeweler for less than $50! Do you want one for nothing but a few hours of your spare time? We wish to enlarge the sale of our celebrated Persian Petrified Perfumery, the most unique novelty now on the market, and in order to do so, we agree, upon receipt of your name and address only, to send you 20 cases of the Perfume, WHICH YOU CAN SELL AT FIVE CENTS PER CASE in as many hours. Free by mail, postpaid, without asking you one cent in advance. When you sell the 20 Cases at Five Cents per case, then remit us $1.00 and we SEND YOU AS A FREE PRESENT FOR YOUR TROUBLE THE HANDSOME RING. No capital required. We take all risk. The most liberal offer ever heard of. Simply send your name and address and we will forward you the Perfumery at once. Address, PERSIAN PERFUMERY CO., 19, Warren St., New York.

PEARL AND GILT

Initial Stick Pins.



New ideas in stick pins make them more popular than ever, we have just secured a novelty in these pearl and gold plated initial stick pins. It is a glad hand that holds the pure white pearl heart with the gilt initial securely fastened to it. The effect of the combination is very beautiful and we know after you once get one that many others who see them will order at once. These are really a 25c. article, but to introduce we will send samples, any initial desired, free to all who send us 10c. for a trial six months' subscription to Sunshine, the monthly that is needed in every home. If you want three stick pins all one initial or different send us 25c. for a year's subscription and get three of these popular stick pins, they are for Gents' or Ladies' use. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

FLYING MACHINES

Will come next but at present we offer something entirely new in Balloons. There is nothing quite so fascinating to old or young as watching the airy flight of a Balloon, and a foreign inventor has just gotten a patent on a new idea in paper Balloons. They rise from a table in the house or ascend heavenward in the open air. They excite the greatest curiosity every where they are shown and thousands are now sold daily in Europe. "COMFORTS" Foreign artist saw them in "London" and sent a large invoice across the Atlantic so we could be the first to advertise them in America. To first introduce, we are going to give away several thousand as we know we afterwards can sell more than a million of these torpedo Balloons. All we want is to get new three months' trial Subscription to "COMFORT" and if you send six cents for your own or a friend's subscription we will send you a package of ten Balloons Free Post Paid. You can have three or four in the air at once and derive more sport from them than anything you ever saw. Full directions furnished so children can easily work them and have heaps of fun. You make big profits if you want to exhibit or sell them. So send six cents early and get the agency. Don't wait but write and get your friends to write to-day.



Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE following "Notes" from Lee McCrae of Indianapolis, will be very acceptable to the Bees, we are sure, who will thank her for the sensible suggestions therein:

A child's thimble makes an admirable glove darner when that convenient little article is misplaced.

If the home dressmaker would iron out her paper patterns just before using, her cutting would be much easier and more exact.

Try the curved nail scissors for cutting out hamburg edgings.

When a kid glove begins to cut at the end, usually over the fingernail, insert a piece of kid to match on the inside, catching it to the seams. If neatly done it will not be clumsy looking, and it will delay the break for weeks.

The woman who would be economical and at the same time save herself many an annoyance, should select one size and shade of stationary, and resolutely stick to it. Then there will be no box full of paper and envelopes that look like a sample case, and refuse utterly to "keep company" with one another.

How often we have heard that we must shake all medicines before taking, yet few of us know the chief reason. Besides the fact that many ingredients do not mix well, and that the heavier, which settles to the bottom, may be rank poison when taken alone—many remedies (and all patent medicines,) have alcohol put in to preserve them. It forms a layer on the top, effectually corking the contents from the air; hence, if the bottle is not shaken, one may get a full dose of pure spirits.

The fashionable hat could never be trimmed by amateurs. It is a scheme of the milliners, and would be entirely successful but for the fact that they reckoned without their—*sailors*. Let the girl of small pocketbook and large wits invest in a trim white sailor of the best quality and the usual black band; but for the sake of a long suffering public, do not let her inflict that monotonous hat upon it every day of the week. It and her upper bureau drawer form a whole millinery store. Change No. 1; Let her fasten a white band and a smart bow tightly around it. Then a fringed Roman tie knotted loosely, or a pretty dotted veil to match her suit. A pink or scarlet band softened by a dainty white veil is a still prettier effect while the veil may be caught at one side by a bunch of sweet peas or any flower particularly suited to her taste and attire. By changing it frequently she becomes the envy of her companions who "can have only one hat because they are so expensive," and who always looks the same.

"E. J. C." of Emporia Kansas, has kindly donated the following description of a pretty rug, which will also be received with thanks by the Bees. She says:

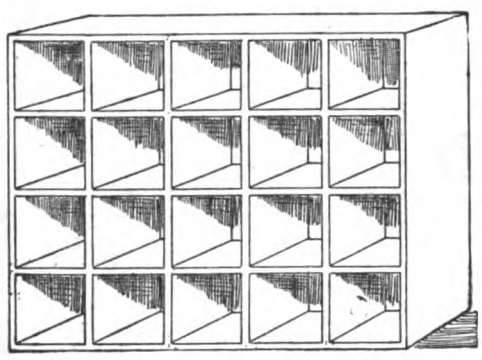
"I will tell the Bees of a rug that is both useful and ornamental, and costs so little that any one could afford to have several like it. The material was scraps of soft woolen goods that were left when dresses were made, and were of every color and shape imaginable; several



SLEEVELESS NIGHTGOWN.

partly worn cashmere and flannel skirts; children's dresses, and anything else of that kind that I could find. These were saved until I had a cracker box full before I began to work. The small pieces were cut into strips one and one half inches wide, and any length. Then they were gathered through the middle upon a coarse thread (No. 8) and pushed up close enough to make a round roll like chenille. The colors were placed hit or miss, and were not sewed together like carpet rags, but the ends were lapped one upon another and gathered through them. Part of the dress skirts were dyed red, and part brown with diamond dye, cut in strips and gathered like the others, keeping each color separate. They were then taken to a weaver who furnished the chain and wove it like rag carpet, except that only half the usual amount of chain was used. It is twenty-seven inches wide and one and one-fourth yards long. The hit or miss part was used for the center, with a border of red and brown stripes across the ends. This rug was taken to a county fair last fall and came back bearing a blue ribbon, which announced the fact that it had been awarded the first prize in that department. These rugs are very durable, and plenty of material for making them may be found in every house, for pieces that are too small for anything else can be used in this way. The center may be of a plain color if preferred, with a border of some bright color that will harmonize with it."

Now for a few of our own ideas. We trust the one of a sleeveless nightgown will be both new and acceptable to our readers, for it is the most comfortable garment imaginable, for summer wear. Take the advice of one who knows what she is saying, and make one before another sun sets—for it takes only a few hours of time, if one is deft with the needle. Use English long cloth, which is fine and soft and without dressing; cut with opening for the head and arms, like a chemise, having the neck large enough to admit of gathering quite full across the front and back, making the neck as low as one likes; of course it cannot be very *high*, without having an opening down the back or front of the gown, as the head could not pass through. It is supposed to be low enough to admit of the head passing through with no other opening. Put a full ruffle of fine hamburg edging six inches deep around this neck opening, and above it put an inch wide insertion, through which run satin ribbon. Around the arms eyes gather the hamburg in the same manner, omitting even the faintest hint of a sleeve. If it is desired to make a more elaborate gown, put rows of the insertion across the front of the



SHOE BOX.

gown. This garment is exactly like a chemise, except that it is long. Trimmings of soft imitation val. lace are very satisfactory, as they do not take up as much starch as hamburg does, when laundered, and of course are for that reason more comfortable—for what is more irritating than stiff frills on a nightgown. Of course gowns of this kind can be varied in a number of ways, and when one has made one, it is very easy to make more. Those for sale in the shops have a short puff for the sleeve, instead of the fall of embroidery only, but are not as pretty, nor are they as comfortable and cool. Made in delicate colors, of nainsook, they are exquisite—though I think a dainty woman usually prefers white for all her underwear.

Now that we are on this subject, a recent bride had a sachet for her nightgowns, which was made of white satin, large and slightly padded and perfumed with violets. On the upper side her name was embroidered. The case was tied with satin ribbons.

We give an illustration of a shoe box, which, while not being exactly a thing of beauty, is a most convenient affair. Every woman knows that her shoes, if kept on the floor of her closet are always in disorder and in the way, also covered with dust. If she has a bag fastened to the wall or to the closet door, it is always sticking out in the way, or else falling down, or the shoes are falling out. Now here is an idea, original with us, which any one can have. The one in question is built at the end of a closet, taking up the whole width of the closet, which is thirty-eight inches wide. The height of this box is twenty-two inches, and the individual boxes, or pigeon-holes are eight inches deep and five inches high. There is no back to the box—simply a set of pigeon-holes set in against the wall of the closet, and fastened there. In this way the shoes are kept out of the way and perfectly free from dust and quite accessible, and yet only eight inches of space has been taken from the depth of the closet.

The well-known heavy dyke on the Holland coast was built by the winds themselves.

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocketbook. 1,500,000 boxes sold. 400,000 cases cured. Buy NO-TO-BAC from your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, $1, usually cures; 3 boxes, $2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

"SLIP ON" DRESS SHIELD



The only dress shield made to wear with silk waists and shirt waists, but can be worn with any kind, hence it is cheapest to buy as it does the service of a dozen dress shields. It slips on and off as you will—no sewing, no pinning. Being adjustable, it fits anyone, is comfortable and makes you stand erect, because it acts as a shoulder-brace.

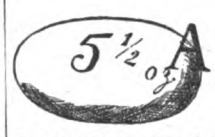


The "Slip On" Dress Shield is neatly made of light, strong waterproof cloth, and may be kept clean and fresh by sponging. You can't do this with any other dress shield. Retail price 60 cents or $3.60 per dozen, but if you cut this ad. out and send us 30 cts. we will send a pair, post paid.

Regular, Price, 60 cts.
Special Price, 30 cts.

AGENTS WANTED. Our agents make lots of money because the "Slip-On" almost sells itself. Mrs. L. D. Howe, Decorah, Ia., sold 14 doz. in one week and made $58.80. J. LEE, Omaha Bldg., Chicago.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.



HIGH bred buff cochin hen at Nashville, Tenn., recently broke the record for laying large and heavy eggs. The largest one weighed five and one-half ounces, the circumference being ten inches the long way and five and three-quarters around. This egg, which is perfect in shape, has been preserved and presented to the Museum of the Southern Illinois Normal University at Carbondale.



DENIZENS of the desert will not drink pure water; they say pure running water makes them violently ill, while the most poisonous looking water agrees with them. It is said that stagnant water at first produces nausea and fever, but when once the system has become used to it, it has no such effect, while pure water affects the system in this way after using the stagnant.

Epileptic FITS Can Be Cured.

If you suffer from Epilepsy, Fits, Spasms, Spells, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus's Dance, &c., have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted, my New Discovery, Epilepticide, will give immediate relief and PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for a FREE Bottle and try it. It has cured thousands where everything else failed. My 90-page illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Permanently Cured," FREE.

When writing, please mention reading this in COMFORT and give name, AGE and full address.

All correspondence professionally confidential.

W. H. MAY, M. D.,
May Laboratory, - 94 Pine St., New York City.
Always Mention COMFORT When You Write.

FOR MEN ONLY.

Free Trial Package of This New Discovery Mailed to Every Man Sending Name and Address—Quickly Restores Strength and Vigor.

Free trial packages of a most remarkable remedy are being mailed to all who will write the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back, varicocele, or emaciation of parts can now cure themselves at home.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that come from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 730 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages will be complied with promptly. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated and the free sample will enable them to see how easy it is to be cured of sexual weakness when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample, carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.

STARTLING REVELATION.

The Remarkable Achievements of Prof. Weltmer, the Great Healer, Are Causing Universal Astonishment.

The Nineteenth Century has been correctly termed the most important in scientific advancement and mental development, but no new discovery in any line is at this time attracting such widespread attention as Prof. Weltmer's Method of Magnetic Healing. In fact, the phenomenal cures made by him during the past two years have been so remarkably astounding and wonderful as to demand the attention of scientific and medical men all over the world. His method of treatment banishes disease as if by magic. Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer. Not only does this remarkable man cure hundreds in his Infirmary, but he possesses the ability to cure at a distance, and all cures made by this method are equally permanent. Mrs. Jennie L. Linch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles. In less than 30 days she was cured. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered severely with female troubles and eczema and was entirely restored by Prof. Weltmer in a month. Thousands of other sufferers all over the land have been restored in the same manner. This is positively the only known cure for lost vitality and kindred ailments. Send for a copy of the Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated magazine, giving a long list of the most astounding cures ever performed. It is sent free.



PROF. WELTMER.

TEACHES HIS ART TO OTHERS. Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making $10.00 to $50.00 per day. Taught by mail or personal instructions. Address, Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., The American School of Magnetic Healing.



FREE This beautiful gold plate Ring or a Band Ring, Bracelet or Shirt Waist Set to anyone who will sell 10 of our Roman gold Stick Pins at 10c. each. Write to us and state that you will sell the Pins and send us the money or return them and we will mail Pins postpaid. When sold remit $1.00 and we will mail the premium. M. R. COMPANY, 35 RANDOLPH STREET, Dept. 6, CHICAGO.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

FITS A Great Remedy Discovered. Send for a FREE package & let it speak for itself. Postage 5c. DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ills.

FREE Our Magnificent Catalogue No. 70, of Ladies' Outer Garments. Edward B. Grossman & Co., 170-172 State St., Chicago.



BEAUTY PINS. A Pair of Gold-Plated ones FREE. These choice Ladies' pins are needed in every household, there are one thousand and one uses for them. No woman or child is now considered well dressed without two or more of these useful and ornamental pins. We are selling thousands of them and in order to introduce SUNSHINE into new homes and acquaint all with the necessity of this new style pin, will send one pair free to all who send 10c. for a three months' subscription to our great monthly. Great profits made selling them for Shirt waists and other spring and summer clothing. Buttons are being entirely done away with by this happy innovation. Send 10c. today and get your subscription and pair of Beauty pins free. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

RUPTURE SURE CURE at home; at a small cost. No operation, pain, danger or detention from work. No return of Rupture or further use for Trusses. A complete, radical cure to all (old or young) easy to use, thousands cured, book free (sealed.) DR. W. S. RICE, Box C, Adams, N. Y.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this big 325-lb. new 1899 pattern high grade RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, $13.00 less the $1.00 sent with order, or $12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16½x18x11, top is 42x23; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamentations and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamented base. Best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you $25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least $10. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc), CHICAGO.

WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)

Sent Free to Everybody!

The COMFORT HAMMOCK.

As a Reward for a little friendly service.

BOYS AND GIRLS:

Here's a happy hint for Summer,
And verily it is a "hummer."

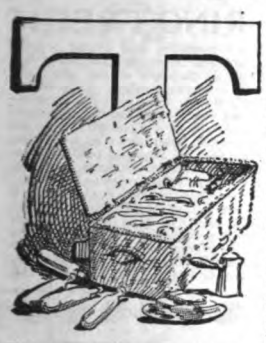


We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, hand-tied, colored **Hammocks**, which for the next sixty days we shall place on the **Free List**, upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one **absolutely free.** These Hammocks are over 10 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends, and a strong cord along the entire length of sides. No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

Now to every one who will get up a club of **4** subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for with its many improvements and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of 89 cts. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE proper food to be taken on summer outings, such as picnics, is quite a study. The things that appeal to the appetite are hard to transport, and of course one wants to take as few baskets and boxes as possible; so, in order to get up a substantial lay-out for ten or a dozen people, that will look well when disgorged from the receptacle in which it is brought, is quite a problem. If twenty-five or more people are to partake of the lunch the matter is simplified, as things can be taken in quantities—that is, whole chickens and hams—whole cakes and pies, and loaves of bread, lemons, etc., but when the lunch is for the few, the sandwiches must be made up before starting out, the salads prepared and everything be in readiness so that no more things need be carried than is absolutely necessary.

For sandwiches, make some of plain bread and butter, to be eaten with the preserves or currant jelly which should be among the good things. Some should also be made with a thin slice of cheese (Swiss preferably) between two unbuttered slices of bread. Make some also of ham, chicken, salmon or lettuce. Cut off all crusts, pack the sandwiches closely and compactly into boxes which have nothing else in them but sandwiches, first laying a wet napkin into the box to keep them moist and soft.

A salad of some kind is almost a necessity, as it gives the necessary acid to the repast. A vegetable salad of lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and radishes, mixed with a French dressing is delicious at such a time; chicken or lobster salad, also salmon salad, mixed with mayonnaise dressing is next best. Eggs in some form should be there, either hard boiled and served in the shell with pepper and salt, or arranged before starting from home, in a large flat box, on lettuce leaves. The eggs should first be boiled hard, left to cool, and the shells *removed*, the eggs cut in halves, the yolks *taken* out without destroying the shape of the white part, and mixed with a small amount of mayonnaise dressing; then returned to the white part carefully and smoothed off, and each half placed upon its bed of lettuce. Place lettuce leaves over the top, when the box is full, and then fasten the cover on to the box so the eggs will not be disturbed in transportation; then serve them from the box.

Sardines are appetizing at such a lunch, when of course crackers and lemons should keep them company. The dried beef which comes put up so nicely in small boxes, is also an addition which is easy to carry.

Something sweet to finish off the repast should be at hand for those who care for it, though as a rule sweets aren't much cared for at outdoor suppers. Berries can be taken along very nicely in the baskets in which they are bought, and sugar in a box.

The small and large flat boxes which come from the caterers during the year, when extras are bought, should be saved for the summer picnics, as they are light and easy to carry, and when used can be thrown away, and so lessen the luggage to be carried home.

It is a good idea to make a punch before leaving home, carrying it in a preserve jar and adding water and ice after everything else is ready. A good rule to follow is to use the juice of twelve lemons and two oranges, and two cups of sugar. Then cut into this two bananas, some strawberries and some slices of lemon and orange. If desired a pint of claret may be added, which, with two quarts of water added just as it is to be served, makes a rich and delicious punch.

Now for a home salad which we think will be new to most of our readers.

HAM SALAD.

Soak one-half tablespoonful granulated gelatine in one and one-half tablespoonfuls cold water; then dissolve in three-quarters of a cup of hot chicken liquor. Strain over one cup cooked and chopped ham and stir, letting it stand in ice water, until the mixture thickens. Fold in one cup thick cream beaten stiff and a few grains of paprica and salt if needed. Put into a mould, a ring mould preferred, and before serving fill the center with fresh lettuce leaves. Pass mayonnaise dressing with this salad, when served.

RUSSIAN SALAD.

Take one cup each of cold, boiled carrots, potatoes, peas and string beans. Cut the potatoes, carrots and beans into small pieces and pour over them and the peas separately French dressing. Arrange each vegetable by itself on a platter, in a nest of lettuce leaves. Then on the top of one of the sections pile some finely chopped beet, previously boiled; on the next section the finely chopped whites of hard boiled eggs; on the third the yolks of these eggs, mashed through a fine sieve, and on the last some smoked salmon. Use mayonnaise dressing, if preferred to the French.

GREEN-PEA SALAD.

Cook a pint of young peas with a tablespoonful of butter and as little salted water as possible, stirring constantly until the peas are tender and the water evaporated. Let them cool. Arrange on a serving dish some fresh lettuce; over this spread a cup and a half of finely chopped cold lamb or chicken. Pour the peas over the meat. Mix together six tablespoonfuls oil, one-half teaspoonful salt and a little pepper; add gradually three tablespoonfuls lemon juice or vinegar and pour this dressing over the salad. Sprinkle the whole with mint leaves, chopped very fine.

CABBAGE SALAD.

Chop finely a head of white cabbage; pour over this a French dressing, or one made of one cup vinegar, two tablespoons sugar, a little salt, paprica, mustard and the yolk of one hard-boiled egg, rubbed fine. Let the mixture stand in a cold place for two hours. Have ready some boiled beets, cold; chop them fine and pour over them enough vinegar to cover, letting this mixture stand the same length of time. Serve individually on good-sized plates; pile in the center of each plate some of the cabbage; around this put a ring of the pickled beet, and then garnish with a wreath of parsley around the edge and a small sprig standing up from the center. Red cabbage may be used in the same way, but in place of the beets use a ring of hard-boiled eggs cut in slices; garnish with parsley.

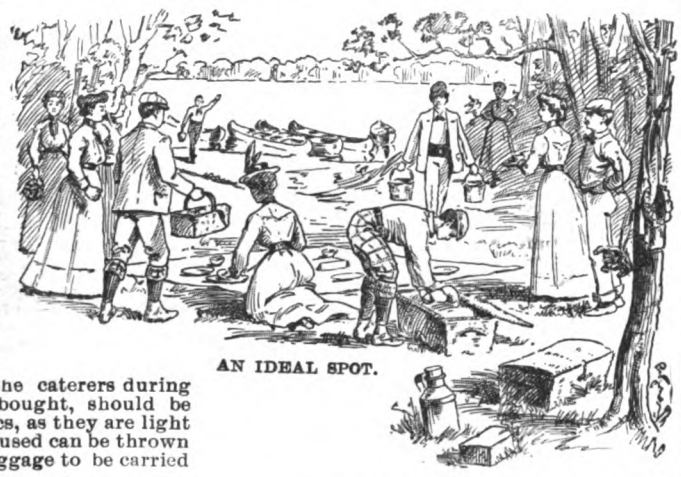
DANDELION SALAD.

Almost every one is fond of dandelion greens, but how many have ever tried the leaves without their being cooked? Some one who has, says they make a delicious salad. Use only the perfectly fresh, crisp leaves and dress them with oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Add to these a little grated horseradish, if it is liked, or vary the dressing in any way desired, and so add another to the list of green salads.

An idea was lately evolved by a bright young person, who gave what she called a "progressive luncheon." On the covers of half of those present lay a letter "S," and the hostess arose to explain that this signified that the persons sitting at these places at table were to change seats at each course, with the second person on the left—that is, was to "skip" one, each course, and so, in time, would be far removed from the ones who were neighbors at the beginning of the meal. This gave every one a chance to meet every one else, and so no one got out of ideas of subjects for conversation, for they could say the same things over again, if hard pressed, as the neighbor would be a new one in each case.

We recently heard some one complaining of their kitchen being over-run with little red ants. An easy way to get rid of them is to take small pieces of coarse sponge, sprinkle sugar in the cavities and place them where the ants are seen. Large numbers will collect on the sponges, and they should then be picked up quickly and carefully and dropped into a dish of hot water, which should be ready for that purpose. Repeat this operation and all the ants will soon be disposed of. We wish we had as effective and easy a remedy to suggest for the extermination of water-bugs, with which some one else is afflicted. She has tried all of the so-called effectual remedies on the market, but cannot get entirely rid of them. We shall be very grateful if our readers can suggest something for this perplexed housewife to do in order to rid her kitchen of these horrid things.

It is said that Lilli Lehman, the great singer, follows this bill of fare daily: At 7:30 a. m. she has a glass of milk with rye bread and a little fruit; at noon, vegetable soup and a plate of vegetables; at 4 o'clock in the afternoon a glass of milk, and at seven in the evening some green salad, two eggs, or some cheese. Sometimes during the day she eats fruit. When she is to sing at night she takes a plate of rice at noon, and eats nothing more until after the opera—usually about midnight. Once in a great while she drinks a glass of beer with a friend, but very rarely. As will be seen, she is a vegetarian.



AN IDEAL SPOT.

The first postage stamp in the world was issued by Great Britain. It consisted of an allegorical design representing Britannia sending letters to all parts of the world.

FREE HELP FOR WEAK MEN

"CALTHOS"

Prof. Laborde's Marvelous French Cure for Lost Manhood.

FIVE DAYS' TRIAL TREATMENT

Sent Absolutely Free by Sealed Mail To All Sufferers.

NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.



The only preparation known to science which really cures Lost Manhood is "CALTHOS," the marvelous French remedy discovered by Prof. Jules Laborde. It is controlled in this country by The Von Mohl Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a concern which occupies a high and honorable place in the world of medicine. It is one of the largest and most responsible houses in Cincinnati, as anyone who is acquainted in that city will testify.

The Von Mohl Company invites all men suffering from Lost Manhood, Spermatorrhœa, Varicocele, Small Parts or Weakness of any nature in the Nerves or Sexual Organs, to send their names and receive a five days' treatment. This will prove the wonderful vitalizing powers of "CALTHOS." After using it five days the sufferers will find new vigor in their organs, new force in their muscles, new blood in their veins, new ambition, and rapid progress toward the buoyant feelings and sensations of younger days.

This liberal free offer is genuine. There is no swindling C. O. D. or Deposit Scheme connected with it. The five days' treatment is sent by sealed mail to all on request, wrapped in a plain package, and full printed instructions accompany the medicine, so that each patient becomes his own doctor and cures himself at home.

It doesn't make any difference what caused the weakness—whether bad habits in youth, or excess, or overwork, or business troubles. "CALTHOS" will effect a cure, no matter what big name the disease may be called by doctors.

The Von Mohl Company treats all correspondence in perfect confidence. Under no conditions will it make public the names of the thousands who have written testimonials telling of their restoration to robust manhood after other medicines and appliances have proved worthless. "CALTHOS" is regularly used in the French and German armies, and the soldiers in those countries have come to be perfect models of strength and vitality. Cures are effected at all ages from twenty to eighty years. There is no case (except where the stage of epilepsy or insanity has been reached) which it will not radically, quickly and permanently cure. Sexual weakness does not cure itself. It grows worse from week to week. Each day aggravates the mental and physical anguish.

Send today for the free five days' trial treatment. If it helps you, more of the medicine can be purchased. If it does not help, no harm is done and no money has been paid out. You can send your name in the full knowledge that it will be kept from all. The "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential. Address applications for trial treatment, etc., to

THE VON MOHL COMPANY, 304 B, Cincinnati, O. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.

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How to Reduce it Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "I reduced my weight 21 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO. R Box St. Louis, Mo.

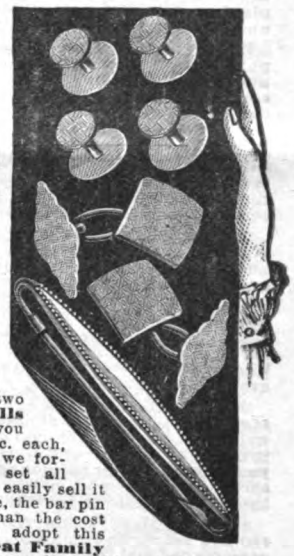
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WE WILL FORWARD ---FREE-- To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp to prepay postage. Address P. Lorrimer & Co., 334 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

Shirt Waist and Dress Pin Set FREE.



This beautiful embossed basket work **silver** finish set will be sent free to anyone who will sell two boxes of our **Active Liver Pills** at 25c. each. We give this valuable and beautiful set to reward you for speaking a good word for our medicine which acts quick and cures Constipation, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Rheumatism, Nervous disorders, etc., etc. We send the two boxes of **Liver Pills** free all charges paid, you simply sell them at 25c. each, send the 50c. to us and we forward the complete set all charges paid. You can easily sell it for 67c. if you so desire, the bar pin alone is worth more than the cost of the Pills—but we adopt this method to get our **Great Family Remedy** before the people quickly. Address THE G. O. PILL CO., Augusta, Maine.



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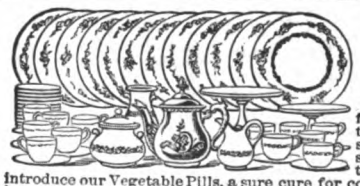
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$100.00 FOR NAMING TABLETS

To any person who will arrange these Twelve Tablets into a name of the most popular remedy in America we will give $100.00. Use no other letters but those given in box. Should more than one person succeed in finding the correct name the $100.00 will be equally divided and paid August 31, 1899.

OTHER PRESENTS.—In addition every contestant will receive free our Beautiful Doree Pearl Pin, value $1.00. **Send no money**, only two stamps for postage expenses of prize and sample box **Doree Tablets** as our object is to spend $2,000 in this novel advertising. We are reliable and refer to any bank in Philadelphia or newspaper in America. **Doree Chemical Co., Philadelphia, Pa.**



TEA SET 56 PIECES. FREE

Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only **six** boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 56 piece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. Q. 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.



$1.98 BUYS THIS AMERICAN WATCH

Beautiful engraved 14k. Gold plated Case with Genuine American stem wind and set Nickel movement. An absolutely correct time keeper. **Warranted 10 Years.** Only one Watch to each customer for this price. Sent C. O. D. (**EXPRESS PAID,**) subject to full examination, if satisfactory pay express agent **Sample Price $1.98.** If you send cash we give you **FREE** a Handsome Gold plated chain. W. HILL MDSE. CO., C 92 STATE ST., CHICAGO.

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If suffering from any disease of the above organs why do you delay proper medical treatment? Each week adds to your danger; binds the fetters of misery more closely around you and renders the cure more protracted. Send address and I will mail you **free of charge** a sample package of a genuine remedy which has cured thousands of the worst forms of these complaints. **Dr. D. A. WILLIAMS, Box C, East Hampton, Conn.**

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Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts SENT FREE.

SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a **confection** they are peerless, **as a food unequaled.** German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain **three times the nutriment of wheat;** and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of **Pepsin Salt** to be a sure **cure for Dyspepsia** and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with **Bright's Disease** or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be **eaten in any quantity as a confection** without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia.

To Form Part of the **Treat or Refreshments** at party gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our **special process** of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate.

FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to responsible parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages **and get a watch,** a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send **one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents** for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. FREE

You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. *No attention paid to first orders without trial 6c subscription.* Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages.

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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

Here's a summer greeting to you all, my dears, with not only the warmth of your Cousin Marion's sincerity in it, but the warmth of the middle month of summer also. Still we ought to have the fragrance of the June roses in our hearts and that is always good in all kinds of weather.

The first cousin in the list is Nellie Gray of Blue Ridge, Ga., and Nellie wants to know if the young man she loves loves her, would he tell her so or must she encourage him by showing him that she loves him. I can hardly understand a girl being silly enough to ask a question like this, but somehow most of them are, bless their hearts, and I don't see how it is to be stopped. Dear, dear Nellie, don't you know you shouldn't have fallen in love first? Why didn't you wait as women must? Since you have not, you must suffer, and I am sure that if he loved you he would tell you so. Men always do that if they are at all in love.

Ida M. C., Portersville, W. Va.—This is not a "correspondent wanted" column nor can I give you the information you seek.

P. A. M., Gray, N. Y.—Be careful how you ask conundrums unless you know the real answers.

Estella, Red Bud, Kan.—"The Wandering Jew," so called, is a creature of fiction and was not heard of until twelve hundred years after Christ.

Maybell J., Monticello, Ills.—Write to the Managers of the theaters in Chicago and St. Louis enclosing stamp for reply from each one to whom you write. My advice to you most earnestly is to save your postage.

Subscriber, Bristol, Tenn.—Here are a few names for a bicycle club: Bristolia, Wheelerina, Cyclerina, or any one of a dozen names of local interest about your neighborhood.

Ruby and Marie, La Moure, N. D.—A girl of sixteen may go to the opera with a man over twenty, but her mother should be of the party. In fact it should be her mother's party. (2) In the smaller towns and cities a business acquaintance is recognized, though people don't as a rule meet socially unless formally introduced.

Inquirer, Manitowoc, Wis.—Consult your family physician on the subject of hypnotism and its practice. (2) The only way to learn what papers buy stories is to send your stories around till they are bought.

Blue Eyes, Milton, W. Va.—It is embarrassing for a skirt to come unfastened in a public place, but there is nothing to do but trust to your woman's tact and the help of the other women around. And there isn't anything to say. Etiquette fails to prescribe any set rules for such trying ordeals.

C. H. M. E., Davenport, Ia.—You might take off your mourning and go to the wedding in all white, but you had better ask your friends about it, for opinions and customs differ. As to what a bride receives there is also a wide difference in opinion and custom.

Kate, Westport, Pa.—I should most emphatically say that five girls should not call on young men at their club, however briefly they remained or whatever their business.

B. B., Tuscola, Ills.—Why should you want to send a tender poem to a young man who has not written to you for three months? Don't you think it would be nicer to wait until he sent the poetry to you? Don't bother the young man with yourself; there is nothing more disagreeable to a man than the girl he doesn't want who wants him.

Anna and May, Poland, N. Y.—The hair is nearly red and nearly any color may be worn with it except shades and tints of red. Wear your hair in the style most becoming to you, even if it is not quite the prevailing fashion. (2) The United States has not yet adopted a national flower.

M. A. C., Magnolia, Miss.—Twenty-nine is an excellent age at which to marry, and you ought to be glad you have lived single so long. I haven't space to answer all the details you ask about weddings. Any arrangement that pleases you most is the best one. (2) Introduce the groom-to-be to two or three of the young men in your town and let him ask them.

Peggy and Patty, Brimfield, Ill.—Girls of sixteen are yet of "school age" and should be in school not "in company." (2) The custom of permitting the man to take the lady's arm is so awkward and bad that I wouldn't do it if all the people in my town did. (3) There are many good and safe face powders. I have no especial choice.

Katie, New Orleans, La.—The etiquette governing the wedding of a divorced woman is the same as if she had never been married. (2) A doctor's patient need not worry over any seeming slights she may think he observes. If he is at all interested in her he will let her know. If he is a bit jealous, all the better. But don't be too anxious to have a jealous man forever nagging you.

Addie B., Bagwell, Texas.—Your questions can not be answered until Judgment Day and then not by me.

Lily and Irene, Holland, Miss.—Ask your fathers and your brothers. They can tell you better than I can.

L. E. B., Lincoln, Nebraska.—Ask your family physician to give you the address of a reliable dermatologist and write to him. Ask him for the cause.

Daisy Dell, Roswell, N. M.—There is no set form of remarks when a young man puts a silver heart on a girl's bracelet. His heart or his gallantry ought to tell him what to say. 16 to 1 he loves her.

W. E. B., Monmouth, Ills.—In a way, yes, there is such a thing as love at first sight, but love of slower growth is less risky, as a rule. (2) No, I do not believe that somewhere in the world the only man waits for the only woman, or the reverse. Too many people marry three or four times for that theory to hold.

Carrie V. N., Leroy, Minn.—Don't worry about the music you will lose. If you love it sufficiently well to suffer enough for its loss, you will find a way to keep it up.

Pearl Baker, Beulah, N. M.—Write to any well-known jeweler, in Santa Fe for the information, inclosing postage for reply.

Rena, Fountain City, Ind.—The "minute points" in social usage that you ask for cannot be told to you. They must be acquired by practice. Go on as you are going, always observant and always studying what is the best and you will learn it better than the book can teach you. You will also learn what are the best books to read on the subject of etiquette.

Jacinto, Honitos, Texas.—When a man and two girls are all equally in love with each other, it is a safe thing for each of them to go and find an entire stranger to marry.

Self Culture, Hillsdale, Canada.—It is proper enough for a young lady to receive the calls of other men when she is engaged, but not advisable for her to go walking with any except her affianced. (2) Make the men keep their distance always. Permit no liberties. (3) Don't know about the people you ask for and cannot learn. Don't know handwriting.

Silver Gray, Red Oak, Mo.—By all means give him the mitten in the presence of his mother. A woman of her age ought to know better than to want her son to marry a girl of sixteen.

Perplexed, Pueblo, Col.—It is not improper to wave to a man when he is too far away to speak to, but it isn't necessary, usually. (2) Don't have your picture in his watch case unless you are engaged to him. (3) How often does the man call "once in a while" who wants to kiss you that often? Suppose you ask your father or guardian and tell him the man's name. (3) Always turn to the right in meeting people, if you can.

Blossom, Peoria, Ill.—Eighteen year old girls wear their dresses full length and their hair not hanging down their back, even if it is a little short.

Bells, Denver, Col.—Long engagements are not considered good, because when two people love each other enough to become engaged they should marry and take their proper place in the social fabric.

Sunflower, Hoxie, Kans.—It is all right not to invite the parents of the groom to a wedding at the residence of the bride's parents if there is a row between the families, but not otherwise.

J. R. D., Ashwood, Tenn.—It is quite correct to be kissed by the man to whom you are engaged to be married. His mother and sisters should call on you or you can go to see them.

Bertie B., Hazard, Neb.—You did perfectly right in refusing to let the young man go home with you after his ungentlemanly conduct in church. If he wants to argue the point, tell him you will ask his own sister or his mother what they think. (2) The lady always takes the man's arm.

Ella, Cottage Home, Tenn.—See answer to J. R. D. second above this. (2) The man always gives the girl an engagement ring no matter how poor he is. If he can't do that much he isn't any earthly good.

Now, dears, that answers the last one, and I am glad to see that you are all improving. May you keep cool until we meet again.

COUSIN MARION.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address,

MRS. C. B. MILLER, Box 71, Kokomo, Ind.

In France hospitals for infectious diseases are furnished with telephones, to enable patients to converse with their friends.

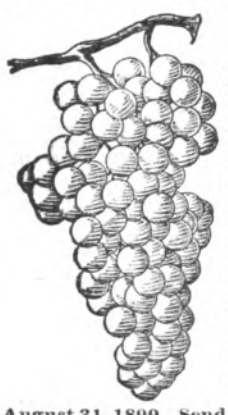
LADIES I Make Big Wages —AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay $18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.

COSTS AGENTS NOTHING to start in business handling our new fast selling specialties and make big profits. Catalogue free. A. VINING NOVELTY CO., 60 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME; $1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELLE MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

$150.00 CASH PRIZE



You Can Win

this money if you can *correctly* count the number of **Grapes visible** in this bunch. Try it and see if you can win. If your count is correct we will give you $150.00. *We do not want any of your money* and we have only one condition which you can easily comply with in an hour's time. We will write you all about it as soon as your answer is received. If you can send us the exact number, we want to know who you are. **It looks easy. Try it!** You are only to count the number of Grapes which you can see. If more than one person sends the correct number, the money will be equally divided and will be paid **August 31, 1899. Send no money with your answer.** After you have counted the number of Grapes, write us at once, simply agreeing that if you win you will devote to our business a few hours of your time. *Remember, there is no other condition.* This is a truly liberal offer. **Try and win the money.** As soon as you have made your count, **send us your answer.** Who knows but that you will get the money? As soon as we receive your answer we will at once notify you if you have won. We hope that you will be successful. As we are going to give away the money whether you write us or not, you may as well try and win yourself. Address, COLONIAL TRADING COMPANY, 103 Smith Building, Boston, Mass.

A Hot Weather Comfort.

THE NEW

PETITE LAMP CHIMNEY STOVE.



IN USE ON THE CHIMNEY.

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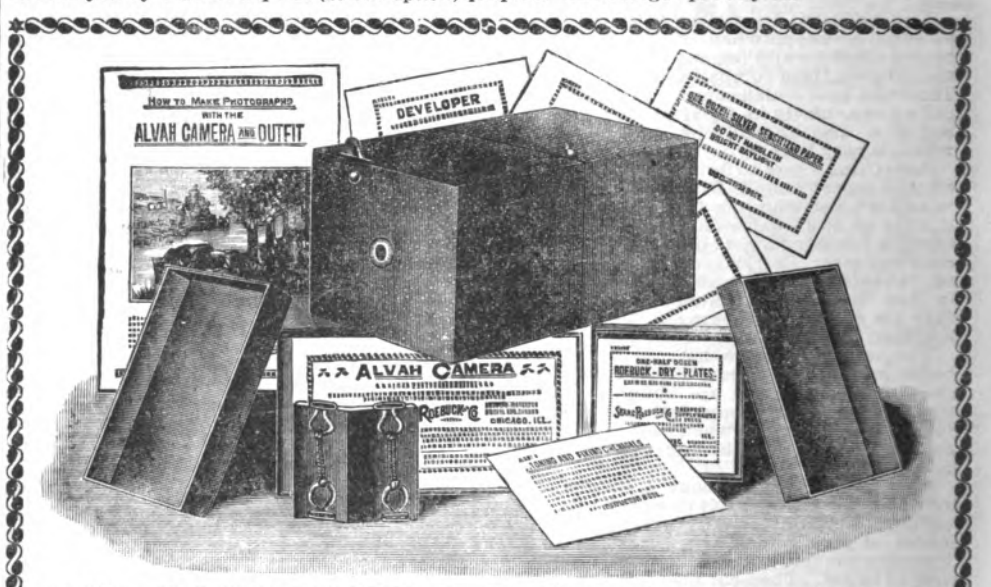
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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



HE heavenly speculum at the New Moon, which occurs at about twenty minutes of seven o'clock in the morning, Washington Mean time, on the 6th day of August, 1899, shows the first degrees of Virgo rising and the 28th degree of Taurus culminating. The lunation falls in the 14th degree of the sign Leo in the middle of the house; Saturn and Herschel are in the 4th house; Neptune is in the 10th; Venus is on the cusp of the 12th, Mars is in the 2nd in benevolent aspect with Venus and Herschel who are in benevolent trine with each other; Jupiter is in the 3rd house in square with Venus but in benevolent sextile with Mercury who is ruler of the scheme and just rising in the east at the time of the conduction. Mercury, ruler of the figure, is strongly placed and is well supported by the great benefic who disposes of both Saturn and Herschel, the last of which afflicts Mercury. The ruler so placed according to the books presignifies pleasant and wholesome air, comfortable and seasonable showers and rains and plenty of the fruits of the earth, though the presence of the great malefics in the 4th prevents the fullest realization of those benefits from Mother Earth in certain sections of our country, though cannot prevail at large against the general promises of good to the whole country.

Mars in the 2nd, though not afflicting, but rather supporting the other heavenly bodies, makes some unusual drafts upon the Nation's exchequer, probably for purposes of warfare or payment for war service; there will be a liberal distribution of the Nation's funds among the people both for labor and material for armament or defensive works, though the square of Herschel to Mercury, promises some severe criticism from the "eccentrics" and fault-finders.

Venus in sextile with Mars and squared by Jupiter points to an unusual inclination towards the pleasures and recreations of life during the lunation, attended by too wasteful expenditures for such sports. Jupiter and Mercury indicates that men shall be ingenious and inventive, and prosperous and successful in their short journeyings, also harmonious dealings with our neighbors *in* the northeast, especially in questions involving *our fisheries* in those directions.

The action of the great malefics in Sagittarius cautions against increased prevalence of liver and bowel disorders and though quarantine regulations may work annoyances in some quarters the sanitary authorities should not neglect such necessary precautions as will prevent the introduction of any epidemic disease involving those parts of the body. Scientific and literary men meet with some unusual difficulties in the lunation and the obituary of the month will be likely to obtain the names of some very eminent persons, especially near the 20th and 27th of August and around the 5th and 12th of September.

The month brings the great malefics to their stationary positions in Sagittarius from the 11th to 25th and it is apprehended that Spain will pass through another phase of the political disease that has for many months afflicted her, and as Mars begins his transit through Libra at the time of this lunation we may reasonably look for unusual trouble for Austria and Hungary, and some outbreak or disasters in Chinese regions.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR AUGUST, 1899.

AUGUST. 1—Tuesday. Deceptive appearances and baffling hindrances are likely in the real estate transactions of this day; give thy landlord a wide berth nor have anything to do with persons who are engaged in trade in coal, lumber, wood, agricultural products or who are in the laborious or dirty avocations; little permanent advantage will result from undertakings commenced at this time; be slow to make purchases for trade nor should wearing apparel be now bought for personal use.

2—Wednesday. Disputes and quarrels are easy of birth in the morning hours when no surgical operations should be performed, especially upon the hands or arms or in the abdominal regions; let all efforts be pushed vigorously as the noon time is passed; have dealings with persons in the literary walks of life, booksellers, stationers, printers, commercial men, bankers, judges, and persons of wealth and station. Purchase goods for trade, launch literary productions, travel, and concern thyself with writings, contracts, accounts, and all educational work; hire help, do correspondence and otherwise employ the strictly mental faculties, even late into the night hours.

3—Thursday. A day greatly to be avoided for wooing or wedding and ladies should be wary of new faces now presenting themselves among their suitors; those who wed on this day will have cause to repent their act, unless the nativities were exceptionally good radically; do not make any new beginning of consequence on this day, nor expect any favor from money lenders, public officers or railway employees.

4—Friday. Quite a fortunate day for music, painting and the fine arts generally; the influences are quite propitious for most things, but particularly in the last half of the day for dealings with military men, druggists, glass-manufacturers and those engaged in the ingenious and mechanical trades; deal in cattle, metals, chemicals, machinery, tools, explosives, and all electrical goods.

5—Saturday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday throughout this day but do not make any purchases for speculative purposes; let the musician and artist earnestly improve the morning hours, and commercial men trading in wearing apparel or wares that please and gratify mankind should urge their sales to the utmost. Better than ordinary success attends mercantile, commercial, and literary affairs just now in the lives of persons born about the 4th of March, 6th or 23rd of April, 25th of June, 6th of September, 9th or 26th of October, or the 25th of December, of past years; but the contrary is likely to persons born about the 22nd of February, 24th of May or 25th of November, of past years, as they are likely to be having temporary mental anxieties, controversies or annoyances in correspondence.

6—Sunday. One of the promising Sabbath days of the month, particularly conducive to the success of pulpit efforts; the religious discourse will be earnest and eloquent.

7—Monday. Bright and prosperous are the conditions of this day; authors are particularly favored and publishers and dealers in scientific, literary or artistic works or productions should vigorously improve every moment; use the time for urging all honorable transactions, but especially mental efforts and the beginning and pursuit of all literary undertakings and generally for the planning of all enterprises of moment, business arrangements, commercial contracts, journeys, educational schemes, stock and monetary programmes and ecclesiastical or judicial deliberations and decisions; have negotiations with banks and monied men; purchase goods for trade and speculate if thy nativity also favors.

8—Tuesday. Thy petition for advantage at the hands of officers of large corporations or from persons noted for marked peculiarity of habit or dress will find less than usual favor during the early forenoon of this day when also thou shouldest not be misled by the glamor of appearances in the enterprises then presenting themselves; the day is better after the morning and should be vigorously used for urging all thine undertakings.

9—Wednesday. The early and late hours are the poorest and ought not to be chosen for inaugurating any new venture; the very early hours are peculiarly mischievous in the production of fires and bad accidents involving hurts to human beings; let all have care in this respect that carelessness does not permit such occurrences in the night hours between the 8th and 9th; the middle hours of the day are to be given the preference for the best efforts in all honorable pursuits.

10—Thursday. Do not be over-sensitive or become involved in disputes during the very early morning, when have no dealings with persons in the mechanical callings or manufacturing enterprises; the balance of the day invites the seeking of favor from heads of departments and public officials and the vigorous prosecution of thy works and enterprises pertaining to the literary and scientific world and to the elegant avocations in life; conditions encourage special activity in dealings in fancy goods, jewelry, perfumes, silks and all articles of adornment. Begin thy journey, take recreation and seek pleasure and amusement; the afternoon promises very favorably for the matrimonial engagements or for the solemnization of the marital relations.

11—Friday. This day is peculiarly favorable for dealings in real estate and for all manner of contracts looking to its improvement and for all agricultural undertakings. Money negotiations pertaining to houses and lands, and trading in productions of the earth are favored in an unusual degree on this day, and REGULUS advises his friends to fully use the time as indicated. Consult thy dentist at this time.

12—Saturday. Another of the excellent days of the month; REGULUS advises all of his friends to take advantage of this day and enter with zeal upon their various pursuits in life; buy goods for trade, engage in new enterprises, speculate if the nativity be fairly favorable; deal with judges, counsellors, ecclesiastics, and traders in wool and woolens.

13—Sunday. An unfavorable Sabbath day for the exercises appropriate, and generally for the literary and artistic classes; the hours tend more to ards pleasure-seeking and personal gratifications.

14—Monday. The week opens with a very evil day and REGULUS cautions his friends against entering at this time upon any new business or enterprise, for nothing now begun will prosper nor should any permanent benefit or advantage be expected from the general transactions of the day; do not travel if it can be avoided and beware of incurring the displeasure of those in authority; government officials and officers of railroads and other large corporations will not be favorably disposed. If this be the anniversary of thy birthday, do thou exercise extraordinary care in all thine acts for several weeks to come and particular caution is prompted as to diet and such habits as give plethora or aggravate heart weakness.

15—Tuesday. Begin thy labors early and urge to the utmost all the mechanical and chemical pursuits; deal in metals, cattle, leather, drugs, hardware and cutlery and initiate thine undertakings in the manufacturing lines.

16—Wednesday. Avoid thy landlord in the morning when also have no dealings concerned with lands, mines, or agricultural products; seek favor from persons in authority during the middle hours of the day, and urge all literary engagements, correspondence, and commercial contracts after 10 o'clock in the morning. Mental efforts will prove more satisfactory than usual in the evening unless thy nativity is radically adverse in that respect.

17—Thursday. Give preference to the first half of the day for the vigorous prosecution of all honorable business; buy thy goods for trade, and deal with banks and persons of wealth, also lawyers, judges and ecclesiastics; the afternoon inaugurates a train of mischievous conditions conducive to strife and controversy in matters then begun, and ought not to be taken for any beginning of consequence.

18—Friday. The afternoon is the best part of this day and should be given preference for dealings pertaining to the articles of adornment and decoration and for matters concerned with the elegant and artistic in life.

19—Saturday. Hold on to the pennies during the forenoon when no purchases should be made for speculation; as the noon is approached let all the mechanical and chemical pursuits be urged to their utmost; deal in metals, cattle, and the chemicals also with cutlers, surgeons, barkers, barbers, tailors, tanners and carpenters; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

20—Sunday. The early morning hours are the best; the noon and afternoon are mischievous and likely to interfere with domestic tranquility and contributing to strife and disruption in both the social and more tender relations.

21—Monday. Vigorously use the middle hours of this day, especially for replenishing thy stock in trade, dealing in wool and woolens, having money transactions, and generally crowding all honorable pursuits; be guarded against disputes in the evening.

22—Tuesday. An unpromising day; discouraging for the purse and embarrassing to the progress of enterprises. REGULUS advises all who were born about the 13th of January, 7th of March, 20 of May, 8th of June, 15th of July, 10th of September, 29th of November, or the 9th of December, of past years, to exercise extraordinary care in matters of both health and finance for a season; misfortunes are easy of birth under these conditions and disorders in business affairs, discord or bereavement in the family circle, and low physical conditions are among some of the trials under prevailing influences in such lives; the passing time is, however, more favorable than otherwise for persons born about the 6th of February or April, 6th of August, or 12th of October of past years, conducing to financial betterment through dealings in landed property or from the estates of deceased persons or from dealings in agricultural or mining products and promoting physical improvement from out-of-door recreations and amusements.

23—Wednesday. Use the first two-thirds of the day for thy best efforts, but look out as the afternoon advances not to become involved in any dispute or controversy; keep the temper and be not over-sensitive in thy dealings with associates.

24—Thursday. One of the best days in the month for beginnings of all kinds and REGULUS charges his friends to make beginnings here in all new undertakings and to urge all honorable pursuits, especially such as pertain to the literary affairs or commerce in any of its branches; deal with the artist, musician, and all in the polite callings; bargain and sell houses and lands; purchase materials for manufacture and merchandise for trade; seek money accommodations and deal with persons of wealth and standing. Rarely do influences combine so favorably as on this day and it is earnestly recommended for full employment. It is peculiarly favorable as a birthday anniversary and gives promise of great good to those who claim it.

25—Friday. Seek favors from persons in public places during the morning hours, but look out for bad losses as the noon is passed and see that no purchases are then made for goods to be sold again. Urge thy sales of fancy and ornamental wares at this time.

26—Saturday. Give preference to the forenoon for forwarding thy ventures already in hand, but do not make any new enterprises; defer matters of much importance in the literary pursuits; do not sign writings or make engagements or contracts; the evening is very evil for any mental efforts and invites watchfulness against deceit and thievish actions.

27—Sunday. Unfavorable for church matters; strange troubles come at this time and pulpit efforts will not be notable for soundness of either logic or judgment; public or railway affairs are not likely to be peaceful or prosperous in these passing days and bad accidents are to be guarded against in travel.

28—Monday. Drive thy business vigorously on this day until the evening, especially if concerned with the mechanical pursuits or inventions; deal with military men, machinists, surgeons, tanners, and electricians; make experiments with chemicals and with electrical apparatus; have care in the late afternoon in all real estate dealings which are best deferred for a season.

29—Tuesday. Be up betimes and waste no moments of this day; bright and prosperous are the conditions for the commercial world and for money transactions of magnitude. REGULUS advises his friends to improve every moment; buy goods for trade; engage in new enterprises and deal with banks, judges, counsellors and traders in wool and woolens.

30—Wednesday. Continue thy vigorous prosecution of business during this day until the evening; have money transactions in the forenoon when also crowd every honorable undertaking; the evening is baffling and disappointing.

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31—Thursday. Disputes are likely to mar the events of the early morning unless the tongue be held well under control; the day is to be avoided for any kind of a matrimonial contract and the artistic and dramatic pursuits are all "under a ban" for a season; expect no favor from the fair sex nor from thy dealings in artistic or decorative wares.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



PROFESSOR SCHURMAN.

The detachment of Admiral Dewey from the Asiatic station and the appointment of Rear Admiral Watson in his place, will not bring any change in the intentions of the Government toward the insurgents. It is unfortunate that Admiral Dewey is obliged to come home leaving any questions unsettled, for our own people, as well as the Filipinos, believe him a man of broad mind and one who will always do as he says. With three civilians appointed by the President, Admiral Dewey and General Otis formed the Philippine Commission, Professor John Gould Schurman, a man of fine mind, is its President. The Filipinos have sent several commissions to treat with the Commision; but so far as General Otis is concerned they have promptly and continually been met with no terms but those of unconditional surrender.

It is reported in the newspapers that there is friction between the military and civil ends of our Commission; that Schurman by allowing the Filipino envoys to enter Manila to negotiate has given them a standing and encouragement that they should not have had; and that as a consequence they have been lionized by the local residents to such an extent that they now believe themselves much stronger than they are. The Eastern mind has never been able to understand or appreciate toleration, and when it is shown them they invariably look upon such an action as a sign of fear. So it is told that the civilians on the Commission have by encouraging these informal envoys just so far given aid to the enemy and retarded the arrival of peace, which a month ago seemed certain at an early day but is now apparently far off, although the proclamation defining the intentions of our government, issued by the Commissioners is being very well received. Whether or not this information is correct, there has been considerable clamor in certain parts of the press for an instant recall of our envoys.

These emissaries which were sent by General Luna to General Otis for terms and to request a cessation of hostilities, came from his army beyond Calumpit, which our readers will remember was one of the stands of Aguinaldo as a capital and where an army of 20,000 men were gathered and were driven from as strong entrenchments as could be devised. Two or three sets of these envoys came into our lines, but each time were found to have no definite authority but were simply messengers. Many wild rumors have been in circulation that Luna and Pinar del Rio, the insurgent generals, had deposed Aguinaldo from command. It is evident, however, that General Luna is the man most looked up to by the Filipino people at the present time. So many stories are told the Filipinos that many of them still believe the Americans are really being beaten and driven from the islands. As all of our own news is censored, it is often difficult to get at the exact meaning and intention of many episodes, which come to us in more or less distorted shape. It seems certain as the days go by and we learn more and more of our new accessories, that enough has happened around Manila in the past two months to do away with any idea that the Filipinos are fit to carry on any kind of civilized independent government. They have no grasp on the principles necessary for a modern nationality. They are vain Malay people whose reasons are controlled by impulsive passions and are complete savages in warfare. They leave burning villages and famine behind them in their constant retreat, depriving their own people of shelter and food, and by their foolish action creating no impediment to the conquering Americans. In all probability the crimes of murder, theft and illegal lust precede that of arson and wanton destruction. To rob and destroy the homes of their own kindred is the Togal character, which at best is vengeful, treacherous, cruel and avaricious. Let us hope that there will be no more sentimental talk of turning over the sovereignty of these islands to the natives heard, not even in the streets of Boston which has been the center of "anti-Imperialistic" views. Such a result, if conceivable, would be an everlasting blot on this great country and an evidence before the world of its unworthiness to ask cessions and the relinquishment of existing sovereignty in any place, no matter what set of circumstances might have given us the right to demand it.

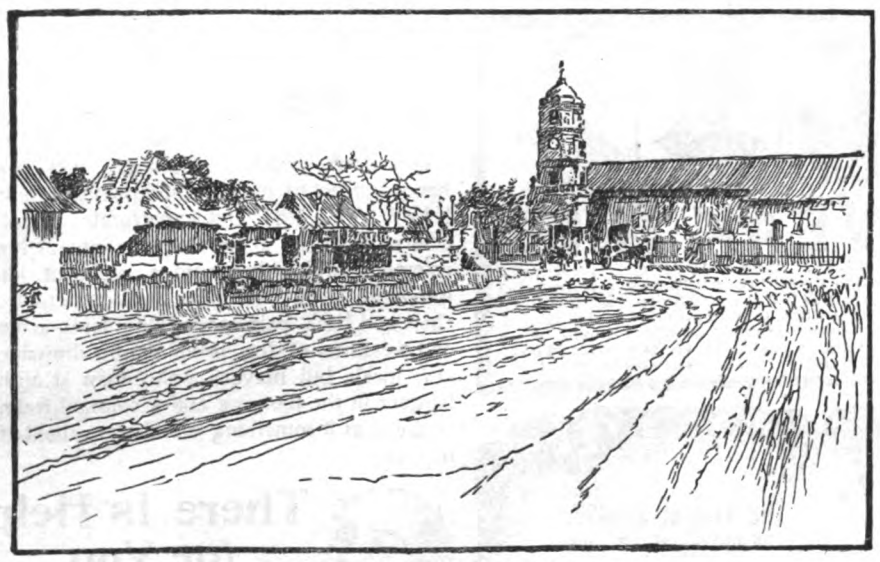
The situation in Samoa does not seem to change. A Commission representing the three powers, America, Great Britain and Germany has sailed for the islands and will act after a thorough investigation. All accounts show that the English and Americans have acted together in the difficulties even to standing together in the hand to hand fights. Notwithstanding stories coming from European sources to the contrary the administration has stood behind Admiral Kautz. It is somewhat a matter of regret that the *Philadelphia* has been ordered homeward, but the *Newark*, which was designated to relieve her is about as strong a ship. The Germans protest against this vessel being sent to Apia, as we already have a couple of auxiliary cruisers there. It is claimed that a stronger American force will make the insurgent Samoans restive.

One of the most noticeable events of the month was the departure of the flagship *Olympia* from Manila, homeward bound, bearing Admiral Dewey. As the great ship left the harbor salute after salute rang out from forts and the shipping of all nations. The scene is reported as having been intensely thrilling from its wild enthusiasm. As the cruiser disappeared in the distance signals of good cheer flew over every ship. The first stop was Hong Kong where the Olympia was docked and painted. Admiral Dewey is ill from the strain of the year past and the voyage home will be leisurely. Probably no living man has met with such ovations as will hail him. The English ports will be particularly jubilant on account of the Anglo-American good intent which prevails and this will prove an agreeable way to show good feeling. While no definite itinerary has been given out, the *Olympia* will arrive in New York about October 1st, and the grandest reception given the Admiral that ever met a conquering hero. Already preparations on a magnificent scale are being made in the metropolis.

In Cuba events are slowly progressing which will bring the people into closer relations with the States. Gen. Gomez has assisted our military Governor in the distribution of the $3,000,000 appropriated for payment of Cuban soldiers. For some time it looked as if none of them were willing to turn in their arms. Gen. Gomez was repudiated by the soldiers and ex-officers were particularly fierce in their threats. Gen. Brooke, however, firmly went ahead and upon his signifying his intention to return the money to the United States, the Cubans tumbled over each other in haste to obtain the $75 per man. The better class of Cubans and Spaniards see the progressive steps of our government and how much is being done for the island's welfare and appreciate it, and are readily adapting themselves to the new conditions. Our postal service, schools and honest administration of public office are revelations to them. If trouble arises it will come from the lazy, thieving half-breeds and full-blooded negroes who were formerly slaves. A wholesome lesson, which is sure to come at no very distant date, to show the strength of America is something that COMFORT trusts President McKinley will not hesitate to administer when necessary. This class of individuals are mentally unable to appreciate toleration and respect nothing but actual brute force.



GENERAL LUNA.



PLAZA AND CHURCH, CALUMPIT.

In our new island of Porto Rico nothing new has transpired. Once in a while some sensational paper announces a contemplated rebellion of the discontented; but the official reports and interviews indicate that the new government is giving great satisfaction. In all our new islands the courts are being continued on the old basis and changes are being made slowly and with care, but the schools, improvements and the safety and liberty of the individual are all so stamped with the idea of progress that none but the vicious, ignorant and irreconcilables are in any way opposed to a fair trial of American methods.

Diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States which came to an end April 23, 1898, when Senor Polo departed from Washington, were renewed at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of June 3rd this year, when Duc d'Arcos, the newly accredited Spanish minister, presented his credentials to President McKinley at the White House. He was received by the President with a cordially dignified manner and the usual exchange of pleasant wishes took place. There is no doubt Spain's selection is a fortunate one, as the Duke has before resided in this country and has a very large number of warm friends. In spite of the fact that the two countries have been at war with each other, there has never been any active dislike of Spanish individuals here, and this will make D'Arcos' mission pleasant and successful.

At the Hague in Holland has met the World's Peace Conference. It will be recalled that about a year or less ago, the Czar asked for a conference of representatives from all nations to consider questions of disarmament and peace. While it seems to COMFORT some of the topics are very visionary at the present time, there is no doubt that many things will come up for discussion which will make war less terrible. The British and Americans appear to be moving on the same general lines relative to arbitration and other questions.

The conference contains some of the most progressive and careful statesmen in the world, and while not all that might be hopedfor universal peace will be accomplished, much advance in the interests of humanity when nations are engaged in war will be made.

Among the modern signs of the times have been the pleasant demonstrations of American good will on the Queen's birthday, May 24th. Many celebrations in connection with our English cousins took place that day. This cordial intent is also shown in an agreement between the two nations just about to be made public, by which a temporary boundary line between British America and Alaska has been defined to exist for two years, during which a definite line is to be established. This takes away one of the most troublesome questions existing between ourselves and will tend to make an earlier agreement relative to vexed questions on our mutual commercial relations with Canada.

This month's article cannot be closed without once more referring to the Philippines. On the whole the situation is comparatively good. Aguinaldo has declared himself a dictator, but his army is slowly crumbling away and as we have always predicted, turning into guerillas. The civilian part of the commission has concluded the natives still need a severe lesson before peace can come; so Gen. Otis will be no longer hampered by their negotiations. The President is to send large reinforcements sufficient in strength to crush out opposition. The later reports show that the form of government offered the Filipinos by the Commission closely resembles that of our territories. The plan offered has a Governor-General appointed by the President, also judiciary. The Governor is to choose his own cabinet, which will be supported by an advisory council chosen by the people. Heads of departments, judges and the higher offices may be Americans or Filipinos or both.

In conclusion we can record that the Cubans are generally accepting the situation together with the money sent from this country. There are some rumors that there will ultimately be an uprising, but it is easier to threaten than act. The threat is: Independence or incendiary fires all over the island. The latest mails and advices show that the new school plan goes into effect in Porto Rico July 1st. By its wise provisions new free public schools are to be maintained in all parts of the island. The system devised by Mr. John B. Easton, Superintendent of schools, contemplates educating all persons between the ages of 6 and 18 years. These schools are to be open at least nine months in the year and will be supported by public taxation. It is hoped and believed that the natives will rapidly avail themselves of this means to make themselves better men and better citizens.

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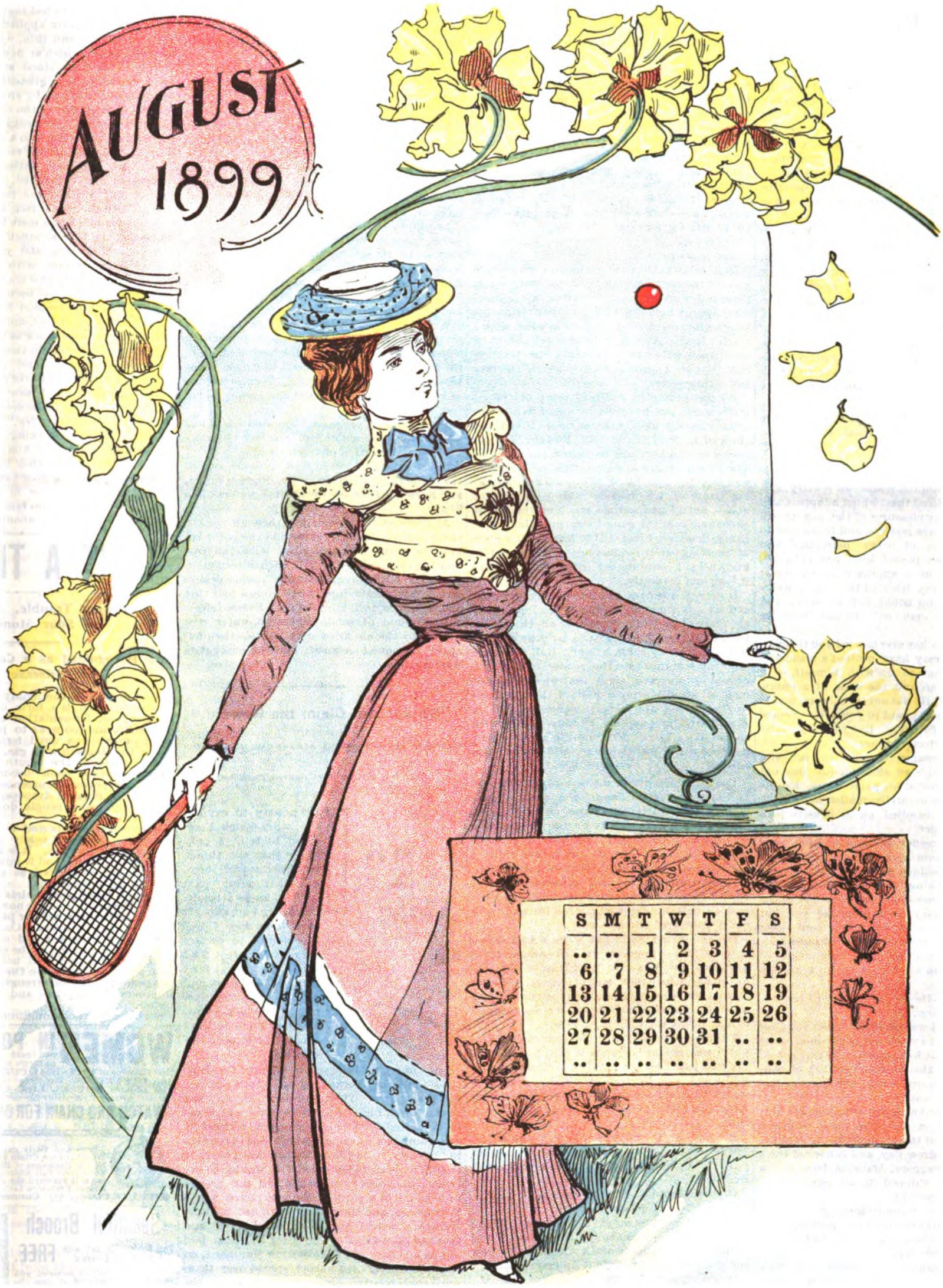
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COMFORT

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NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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OVER AN OPEN GRAVE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ALBERT H. MOODRICKER.

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IF two persons, from the fact of having met before, might dispense with the ceremony of introduction, in nine cases out of ten the readers of COMFORT would not need a word of preface from me, but would be content with my story at once; in fact, I shall do so, after a brief description of myself, not as I am, but as it is usually my wont to appear in public.

Are you living in the country? Then the chances are that at a not remote hour you may have seen prowling about the neighborhood a man who might have been a tramp, an ex-pugilist, a dog stealer—any one or all of these, as his dress would present such a strange combination as to utterly confound your attempt to guess the particular grade to which the stranger belonged—that man was Detective Clue.

Are you a resident of the city, who know the faces of those whom you meet during your walks in the streets and in the parks? If so, you may have seen a man who has puzzled you—a "swell," faultlessly "got up" as to dress, with a profuse yet quiet display of jewelry, and you may have noticed that, whilst he apparently participated in the pleasures of the gay crowd of idlers, his eye was restless, and failed not to scan the features of every masculine and feminine face that passed him, and this, too, without the slightest approach to rudeness; and your keen eye detected that his jewelry was paste, and you could not, do what you would, "make the man out"—he was Detective Clue.

If your business has ever carried you through the slums, you may have noticed a man who did not know what to do with himself, so to speak, hanging around the door of a public house or saloon. He did not trouble you much, however; you simply said to yourself: "Some poor fellow out of work." But you were mistaken—he was Detective Clue.

You have, I presume, traveled by rail and found your *vis-a-vis* an affable loquacious old gentleman, who rested his palm on the handle of a stout cane or umbrella, whilst he quietly scrutinized and bandied an inoffensive joke with each passenger.

Perhaps, dear reader, it has also been your lot to see this same agreeable old gentleman condescend to a sudden fit of seriousness as he whispered something in the ear of one of the occupants of the passenger car who was going to alight. This may have surprised you, but what followed this strange movement, gave you a clue to the mystery—you witnessed an altercation, followed by the sharp click of handcuffs, and you knew that he was Detective Clue.

To begin then—Detective Clue and I are one and the same person.

Some time ago I was obliged to visit the Gulf Coast of Florida, to work up, if possible, some smuggling cases, it having come to the ear of the Department that a large quantity of contraband cigars were being brought to this country from Havana.

Fortunately I had a pretty accurate description of the craft used by the contrabandists, who always landed their goods in an obscure cove, near St. Andrew Bay, and conveyed them by wagons to Evergreen, Alabama, from which point they were shipped to all parts of the country and disposed of.

After traveling second-class, yet by the fastest trains, I arrived upon my ground, so to speak, of course, where I suspected the fountain head of the mystery lay.

I felt rather confident of success, and for a few days after my arrival, I drifted aimlessly from street to street, from saloon to saloon, from shop to shop, and along the dingy pier and sunlit beach, forming acquaintances, learning the town, and talking frequently, of myself and others, and of my half-wild life, afloat and ashore, until I become generally know as "Dark Dan," the sailor—for such was the unremarkable disguise I had chosen to assume on this occasion—and was soon regarded as an open-handed, careless tar, lawless, perhaps, reckless certainly, but a good fellow nevertheless; and this point gained, my plans were soon formed.

I soon elicited the fact that one Don Manarez, an old and wicked-eyed Spaniard, who dealt in "black-strap" Madeira cigars and fruit was the "fence" of the smugglers, and to him I applied one dusky evening as we sat chatting—I had, of course, duly formed his acquaintance—beneath the shadow of the mission dome in the open piazza in front of Manarez's door, for a purchase of Havana cigars.

"Don, old man, ye're a bit wonderin' no doubt, why I came up here, eh?" I quizzed, knocking the ashes from the tip of a fine Havana cigar he had given me. "Truth now, old man, am I right?"

The Spaniard admitted as much and smiled; and what a smile—a wrinkled, toothy smile.

"See here, old boy," I continued "I'll tell ye. I'm just what I appear—a sailor, but I've a reason for being here—see? It's this way; an old chap, who is a friend of mine, is a cigar dealer in Boston, an' he asked me, as I was comin' South, to see what could be done down this way. Understand? Now, Don, I'm on the 'buy;' say fifty thousand first-class I would go the 'yellow.' Do you know of any fellow who has some stock to sell?"

The old Spaniard eyed me sharply for a few moments; then drew nearer and said:

"Yes, meet me at the head of La Shark at sunrise, and I'll show you some goods. 'Tis cash; my friend is poor."

"Cash it is, old boy," said I. "My friend is wheat, he is—he's good for a large plantation, an' knows a good cigar."

"*Si* senor."

And so we parted.

La Shark was the title of a narrow inlet which pierced the land between the high, rocky walls, three miles up the coast. It was a wild, lonesome spot, where the tide rose and fell with sudden fury, and where storms howled with a fearful force. At ebb, a little beach might be seen upon either shore, beneath the beetling cliff; but at a storm the waves lashed the very walls themselves.

We met promptly, and the result of the interview was the purchase by me of ten thousand cigars, which were at once boxed and shipped to "my friend" in Boston. In due time a second purchase was made, then a third. The Don became communicative as his greed was satisfied, and forgot his prudence, speaking freely of his friends who supplied the goods, until I had learned much of the habits and number of the gang I was pursuing. One thing, however, I had still to learn; their place of meeting and rendezvous. Without this knowledge I could do but little, and I sought it long and earnestly.

However, one dark and threatening morning, as I sat awaiting the coming of the Don at the old place of meeting, pondering on this question, he appeared, and, after a lengthy conversation, led me to their retreat. Half an hour after my entrance into the rendezvous, which proved to be a cave, eight brawny sun-tanned men, all heavily armed, half of them ruffians by their faces, the others worse, headed by Blackbeard their captain, a bronze giant, with an eye like a hawk and a lion-like mane of hair hanging upon his shoulders and breast, also entered.

The Don introduced me as an old customer and as a new friend, and I was received graciously as a matter of course, although with evident caution, especially on the chief's part. He took a dislike to me; and, later, as I sat before the open fire—for it was rather chilly—drinking and smoking, I felt that beneath the careless words and the half welcome given me, there lingered distrust so dread and ferocious that a single misstep would mean instant death and I shuddered and was wary.

It was nearing midnight when a half dozen more of the smugglers arrived—among them Spaniards and Mexicans—and it lacked but little of day when they sought repose. Among them I lay, and wearied both physically and mentally, notwithstanding the strangeness and danger of my surroundings, I slept.

The hours passed and the day came again, but it was not until the sun rose high in the heavens that I awoke. As my eyes opened and fell upon the freebooters nearby, and as I strove to rise I found myself securely bound hand and foot. I was a prisoner. My heart snnk.

Blackbeard, the chief, strode to my side.

"Ye're tied, ye sneaking hound! Ye snake! ye spy! Ye're tied, but we'll ontie ye, by-an'-by."

Ominous words. I shuddered.

"And why?" I queried, "why?"

"Why? Ye know, ye cursed dog! Why? Look at this an' mahap, ye kin recon'," and thrusting his hand beneath his shirt, he drew something forth and held it up before me.

It was my detective badge.

"One o' the boys seen that in your shirt last night, an' we took care o' it. I know what it is an' the boys hev cast a lot, an' ye die at noon—see!"

Without a word he turned away. For a few moments I could scarcely breathe. Then slowly my heart began to work again. It was but little time now for I must die at noon.

Time passed, as time will, and at length Blackbeard and three of his men appeared at my side.

"Snake, the sun's high, an' the boys have decided how to launch ye."

The men lifted me up, carried me to a stretcher near at hand, and laid me upon it. Then one produced a keg marked "Powder," and another put a long fuse into the open bung.

"The boys didn't want ye to go off common like, ye see, so they have filled this."

I made no sign.

"We'll giv' ye a room whar there's a fine view of La Shark, an' hev ye think o'er your past life for a couple of hours or so—see? The match will last that long," he added.

The ruffians lifted me upon the stretcher—my bier that was to be—and bearing me through a long and winding passage deposited me at last in a small, tomb-like space, opening by a low archway directly above the water. Here they placed me and deposited the powder keg beneath me; and then one lighted the snake-like fuse.

"By-bye, ye scum o' the sea!" said Blackbeard. "Compose yourself; it's a quick death. By-bye!"

And the murderers strode from the room.

"Two hours! Oh, God, it is fearful! Why could they not have killed me outright—now?" I had silently moaned.

Then the implacable fate approaching me swept across my brain in one wild, maddening surge, and consciousness fled.

When knowledge returned, I laid half dreaming, over my open grave, noting nothing until a sudden, pungent smell of burning wood entered my nostrils and aroused thought.

Involuntarily I turned my head to learn the cause, when suddenly, with a little crumbling sound, the stretcher sunk at one corner, my body lost its equilibrium and I rolled to the floor. The powder-train, passing close to one leg of the stretcher, had so charred it that it had finally broken.

Writhing like a snake, I managed to throw myself upon the live coals of the still burning wood, where I laid, despite the horrible pain of the fire eating into my flesh, until the cords that bound me were severed. Then, with one mighty effort, I freed myself and sprung to my feet.

Not a moment too soon. The two hours had passed, the slow-match had reached the powder-keg. A fraction of it remained.

I seized the keg, raised it in my arms, rushed through the opening onto the ledge without, and hurled it from me toward the waters of La Shark.

As it descended, bomb-like, through the air, there suddenly shot from behind the point below, the smugglers' craft filled with the freebooting crew—shot forward until directly beneath the falling keg, until the hissing demon struck fairly amidships; then came a roar that shook heaven and, mingled with hoarse cries—a dense cloud of smoke appeared, water shot high into the air filled with debris—then fell again, and quiet reigned; but the smugglers were no more.

"Strike! and Claim the Reward."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ALEXANDER MCPHERSON.

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I DO not try to explain the story which I am about to tell. I only know that the things happened as I tell them, and that great good came to me as a result. One thing I am sure of; that where once I was accustomed to declare very positively that this thing or that thing must be so and so, I had rather say, now, "I do not know. There is much in life I do not pretend to understand."

I was hurrying back to the office of the Boston——late one afternoon, when I was a reporter for that paper. There had been an accident at the North End. An old building which was being pulled down had accelerated matters by collapsing and burying a number of workmen in the ruins. I had been rushed down there to telephone back to the office if it would be necessary to run an extra, but it had not proved to be much of a story. The contractor was a Portuguese, and the men at work had all been Italians. Several men had been bruised, and two had been killed. The latter had been laid out on the floor of Police Station Number 1, on Hanover street, with a sheet spread over them until their relatives should come to claim the bodies. I reckoned that I could get back to the office, write all the story that would be necessary, and get through in season to go home to supper.

Turning a corner I saw a crowd around a police box. Of course I stopped to see what had happened. The door of the box was open and two officers were holding up an old man between them while they waited for a hurry-up wagon. "Drunk!" I thought to myself, and was going on, when one of the officers made the crowd in front break away, and I happened to get a fair sight of the prisoner. I recognized him at once as a Jewish doctor, or rabbi, whom I had run across in my work not long before.

I had been sent down to the Hebrew quarter of the city, one day, to write up a story about the fidelity which the Jews show to the forms of their religion, especially in the preparation of their food. It was just before some religious feast when it seemed as if every Hebrew family in the city was determined to have a chicken to eat. I found one large building devoted to nothing but trade in fowls—live fowls, cackling and crowing in wooden cages. The Jewish women came and selected what suited them, and then generally held their purchases themselves until they could be killed.

One whole floor was devoted to the killing, and I was allowed to go in and see the ceremony—for I came to feel that this was the only word which properly applied to the process. An old man, tall and thin, with a certain dignity of manner which at first seemed in ill accord with his work, stood at one end of the room, holding a long glistening knife. A fowl was passed out to him by an attendant. Turning the head of the victim deftly, so that the throat was bared, one stroke of the knife sent the red blood flowing into a shining basin beneath. In a moment the requisition of the old Mosaic law had been satisfied, and the fowl was passed on to be plucked, paid for and carried home. As I watched the flash of the knife, and studied the man's face, I came to feel that this was for him not a mere butchery. He was a priest of the Law, as much as were those of whom the Bible tells, 5000 years ago. Later I had a chance to talk with him. He was a Polish Jew, come to this country to escape persecution. Life had not been easy for him, here, I judged. If I understood him he was not a rabbi, but only a doctor, not licensed to preach but merely do such work as this. I found him interesting, and thought then I would look him up again, sometime, and get a story for the Sunday edition, but I never got around to do it.

This was the man I saw between the two policemen. Those in the crowd were laughingly talking about his "jag," but I did not believe he had been drinking. John Gerry, one of the officers who held him, was a good friend of mine. He told me they had found the old man insensible in a doorway. That was all. They let me ride to the Station House with him. I knew he had no family, and from what I could tell them there about him the Captain

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had him sent directly to the hospital. I thought I might as well go along, too, and see him taken care of. It would be too late for me to get home to supper anyway. Before I left he had come to himself but was very weak, and lay back on the clean hospital bed as if it was a welcome rest. The next day I ran in to see him. "He is asleep, now," said the ward nurse, "but he was asking for you this morning." His face looked ivory white against the pillow.

"The doctor says he will die," the nurse whispered.

The Jew could not have heard her, but he opened his eyes. When he saw me he reached a giant hand over the quilt towards me.

"You have been kind to me," he said faintly. "I cannot repay you, but you can claim your reward. Strike down the man whose face the Lord has marked with a cross of blood!"

"His mind is wandering," the nurse said.

"He is the guilty man," the Jew went on, after a moment, as if there had been no interruption. "I have seen it in a vision. Strike him down, and claim the reward! It is your privilege, and your duty."

After that he seemed to sleep again, and in a few minutes I left him. That night he died. The nurse said he never spoke again. At first I thought I would write a story for the paper about it, but I didn't. I didn't seem to feel as if I wanted to. Newspaper men can't have much sensitiveness, but when I came to think about writing this "case" I found I'd rather not. So I didn't; and in time forgot about it.

Two years later I was sent out to the western part of the state to spell a man who had been reporting a long and sensational murder trial there. Some of the rest of my story will be remembered as made public through the papers at the time, but much of it was hushed up by the friends of the family.

An elderly man of wealth had been found dead in his office. His confidential clerk had been arrested and was being tried for the crime, many people said because no one else could be found to accuse. He seemed an honest young man, but somewhat wild; and acknowledged that he had been drinking on the day and evening of the tragedy, of which he steadfastly declared he knew nothing. There was none but purely circumstantial evidence, and a brother of the dead man offered a reward of $1000 and finally raised it to $5000, for any positive proof of the crime.

I had never seen any of the parties in the case, and when Court assembled the first morning I was there and naturally watched them with interest as they came into the court room. *The* prisoner seemed a decent-looking fellow, but you never can tell. Another reporter who had been there longer told me who the folks were as they came in.

"That is the murdered man's brother," he said. "The one who has offered the reward." The man he pointed out stood near the door, talking to some one there. I could see only his profile.

When he turned I saw on his right temple a deep red birthmark in the form of a cross!

In an instant the scene in the hospital came back to me. The giant hand reaching out across the quilt; the far-seeing eyes in the ivory-colored face upon the pillow.

"Strike down the guilty man, whose face the Lord has marked with a cross of blood! Strike and claim the reward! It is your privilege, and your duty."

How I got through the next two days, and worked, I hardly know. It was fortunate for my paper that the trial then was dragging along in a desultory way, and that there was really very little to report. At the end of the second day the man whom I had spelled came back. He was a much older man than I, with years of experience, and he had always been a good friend to me. I told him my story and asked him what to do. I had been ordered to return to Boston on the midnight train, that night.

"Let me think," he had said. Then he lighted a cigar and began to walk up and down our room at the hotel.

"It is a chance," he said, finally, "but I think you ought to take it, both for your own sake and for ——'s," naming the prisoner. Then, looking at his watch, "you come with me. I think we have time now."

As we walked through the town he told me what to do, and when we stopped before a large and handsome house, said:

"This is where the brother lives—the man with the red cross on his face. I have been here several times in the evening to see him. Ask for him and the servant will show you into the study. I will tell the servant that I will wait in the hall. I shall be within easy reach of you."

I went in. The man I had come to see met me cordially. He had had much experience with newspaper men of late, he said, adding, "sad experience."

That gave me just the chance to lead up to what we had planned for me to say and I replied:

"No doubt; but I think your experience with me will be different from that with any of the others, for," looking him square in the eye, "I have come to accuse you of the murder of your brother, and to claim the reward of $5,000 which you offer."

It *was* a chance shot, and I felt as a man must who has fired a cannon ball at short range against what may be wood, or may be armor from which the shot will rebound to his own destruction.

This shot struck wood. The man started to deny me, but his lips made no sound. He put his hands to his face and sank back into the chair from which he had risen to meet me. I called softly to my companion, and he came in. When the man in the chair uncovered his face he could speak, and said, quietly enough:

"It is true. I have known it must come out unless I could fix it on some one else. If you will send for the proper officer I will make a full confession."

My companion turned to me. "Go for ——," he said, naming the sheriff, "but do not hurry to get him back here. Stop on your way down and wire the night desk that I want extra copy for 'sports.' They will understand that, and the other boys here will not. It is half past ten, now."

When I left the room I heard him lock the door behind me. While I was gone he got an outline of the whole affair from the man locked in with him, and when I returned at midnight and a full confession was taken down, it was easy for him to fill in the details which would make a complete story. No other paper but ours had a line of it the next morning, and in view of its being so great a scoop we both felt justified in keeping back my personal connection with it, especially as the man's family begged us to do so.

The man died before he could be tried. When his estate was settled the executors, with the full consent of the heirs, quietly paid me the $5,000 which he had offered as a reward.

That is why I am not a reporter now.

A MODERN PRODIGAL.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY D. H. TALMADGE.

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THRASHINGTON, the wild one walked slowly along the street, his mind busy with a strange sensation. At intervals he stopped, looking about him, then breathed deeply and went on again.

"Same old town, same old air I suppose," he said to himself, "but it never made me feel like this before. I actually have a notion to run down to the old place and duplicate the foolishness of the prodigal son. I won't do it, of course, but the notion is mysteriously strong for some reason or other. Let me see; it must be fifteen years—a long time to be lost to one's family and one's country. Fifteen years without a word to tell whether they are living or dead, or whether I am living or dead, which is fully as important. I wasn't wholly to blame. Father treated me shabbily and mother, though she looked as if it annoyed her, wouldn't take my part. So I passed out. I said I would never come back again—that thenceforth it should be as if I were in my grave so far as they were concerned, and the old gentleman smiled incredulously when I said it, but so it has been. I wonder why I came back. Because I had the money and a whim probably. It certainly wasn't because of any mawkish sentiment. London is mine and I am London's. My family and my birth are mere circumstances. But—but the air is different, after all."

He paused again, looking about him and sniffing with just a suggestion of contempt. There was a restaurant at hand, and, yielding to the seduction of the odors that wafted from the open door, he entered. Seated at one of the little tables he continued his meditations—if such staccato-like thoughts are worthy of the title—and as he meditated the old spirit of bitterness gradually resumed its sway and he felt more natural, which was in reality more unnatural. He was once more the outcast, the conscienceless cause of a mother's sorrow and a father's anger, the disgraceful—no, not that; it was no disgrace to do as he had done; he had, in his stubbornness and waywardness, taken what he considered to be the best course, that was all. He had tried honestly, he told himself, to do his duty and they would not accept it. He hoped they had suffered as they had made him suffer, for he had in the earlier days of his exile, felt pangs beneath his pride. He never felt these pangs now. He believed he had forgotten the past until this morning when, under the stimulus of the new old air, memory had awakened. It alarmed him to find that it was not dead and he struggled with it and put it down. He would not speak the first word of reconciliation were they to prostrate themselves before him and implore him with their eyes. Thus he told himself, and thus he believed.

After a time the victuals he had ordered were placed before him. He contemplated the array a moment before beginning to eat.

"Biscuits," he mused, "real, old-fashioned biscuits such as mother—bah! there it is again. I'm becoming regularly soft. Everything in this confounded air says 'mother' or 'father.' It is disgustingly trying to a chap whose temper is naturally short, and—and who doesn't care a snap of his finger about mother or father. I'll ship back to England jolly quick if this state of thing continues, and I won't go on a cattle steamer as I did the first time either. It will drive me to disgracing myself, that's what it will do, the atmosphere softening up a fellow's resolution and the very biscuits nagging him with reminders of things he doesn't care to remember."

He pulled the biscuit apart viciously and put a portion into his mouth, chewing it rapidly.

"It's good anyway," he admitted; "I believe it's the best thing I've tasted for years."

The next mouthful he masticated more slowly, sinking down into his chair comfortably, and gazing dreamily through the window at the passing crowds. Once he straightened up and shook himself.

"I'm getting some sort of a spell upon me," he thought. "Can it be possible there is opium in this cookery?"

He half raised his hand to call the waiter, than relapsed, smiling at what he was about to do. The crowds surged through the street, the cable car bells clanged, people brushed him as they came and went, but he noticed them not. He finished one biscuit and took another, putting it to his lips as one who knows not what he does. The movements of his jaw were very slow now, and the hard look in his eyes was gone. He was thinking—thinking of the old home, passively, submissively, for the first time in fifteen years. The spirit of forgiveness was in his heart. His pride was humbled. He was like unto a child that bows under the rod and is penitent.

"Father was harsh, but he was not unjust," he thought. "I tried him beyond endurance. I was angry because he would have restrained me from doing harm—doing harm to myself—yes, only to myself. I can see it now. We were alike, father and I, and mother was meek and uncomplaining. Blessed be the meek—blessed be mother! Did she ever cry I wonder. I never thought of that before. I never saw her weep, and yet she seemed of the kind that should weep. It is strange I never thought of it. If she didn't give way to tears, with the provocation she had, she must have been a martyr. Poor mother! I can see her now, standing by the kitchen table while father and I had our last words like brutes. And he was her husband and I was her only child. She grasped the edge of the table so hard that the lines stood out on the back of her hand and the knuckles showed white. The other hand was at her throat. She was fixing her dress I thought—I thought—but I was blind, blind, blind! It was her heart that was choking her, and she said nothing! How sweet the apple blossoms were that morning! It must have been just this time of year. I went through the orchard when I left the old place, yet I did not note the fragrance, for my heart was hot with passion—did not think of it—till now—and it was years ago."

His eyes were half closed, and he was oblivious of the flight of time. A touch on the shoulder aroused him. The waiter feared he was ill. He placed a ten dollar note in the man's hand, and watched him as he deftly wended his way to the cashier's desk. Then he essayed to eat, but the meat and vegetables were cold, and he passed into the street, forgetful of his change. Outside, he stood for a time beneath the sign that hung above the door—an anchor, emblem of hope—and then, with a sudden resolve, he buttoned his coat about him and walked rapidly away.

* * * * * *

The village looked much as it had fifteen years before, but the faces were strange. Twice or thrice he saw people whom he knew, but they returned only an unrecognizing stare when he looked into their eyes, and he passed on silently—on past the row of stores, past the old mill and over the bridge, into the land of his infancy. At the orchard gate he paused, drinking in the fragrance of the blossoms.

"It smells wonderfully like the grace of God," he thought, impetuously forming the comparison without heed to its form. "I believe I've been hungry for it all these years without knowing it. What a poor fool I am, with all my money that I have been so proud of—what a poor, mistaken, deluded fool!"

He smiled sadly, and followed the familiar path to the house. No one was in sight. He rapped lightly upon the door. He was conscious of a thick feeling in his throat, and his hand trembled. Yet he was calm. He felt vaguely that he was no longer responsible for himself; some force against which he was powerless was carrying him forward, and he no longer thought of resistance. The door opened, and a woman—a stranger—appeared, asking in rasping accents what he would have.

"My name," he said simply, "is Thrashington."

"And mine," she returned briskly, "is Smith."

He looked at the hard, seamed face dumbly. The woman, taking alarm at the expression of his face, partially closed the door. He stepped forward quickly, putting out his hand to prevent the action.

"Madam," said he, "I beg of you not to be alarmed. It did not occur to me that my name would not be familiar to you. My father owned this place. I—I was born here. Can you tell me where my parents are?"

"I don't know much about the Thrashingtons," replied the woman. "We're strangers here, and—and what do you want to know about your own parents for anyway? I should think you had ought to know as much about them as anybody if you're a natural son."

He bowed his head, and the words he spoke were barely audible.

"I am not—I have not been a natural son."

There is nothing in the world so attractive to the spirit of pity as the spectacle of pride humbled. The woman's tones softened.

"I am sorry," she said, "but I can't tell you anything except what I've heard the neighbors say. It won't be pleasant for you. Still, I don't know but what you deserve it. Your father is dead, and your mother is cooking in an eating house in the city. Mr. Rawlins knew the owner of it and got her the place. I've heard him say it was called the Anchor Cafe, or something like that. Our folks always eat there when they go to town. My husband eat there the last time he was up, and——"

But Thrashington was already beyond reach of her voice, hurrying back to the railroad station. The woman stood in the doorway till he passed from sight.

"Poor boy," she thought, "he is paying for his foolishness."

Then she slammed the door.

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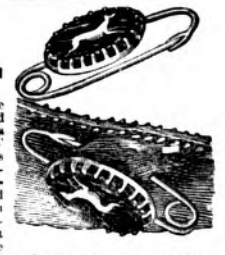


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How Roger Jerritt Raised the Mortgage.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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ROGER Jerritt trudged along the turnpike, his hands thrust deep into the pockets of his dilapidated trousers, muttering the while to himself.

"Marse Puls'ver ain't done de Colonel no hurt," said the negro, doubling up his great fists, "he ain't never hurt nobody, an' I'd like to——"

"Hi there! Out of the road!" cried Colonel Lane, reining his horse, "do you want me to drive over you?"

Jerritt stepped mechanically to one side, glancing up at the carriage as it passed, and when it had gone shook his fist savagely after it.

Squire Pulsiver had mortgaged his estate to the Colonel and the unexpected had come to pass. The Colonel was anxious to add the Squire's plantation to his own, and the Squire, unable to meet his obligations, the Colonel had foreclosed, and after a week of fruitless scurrying around among his friends, trying to raise the necessary five thousand dollars, the Squire was about to surrender the estate which he had inherited from his father.

The last three days active preparations for leaving had been going on. Jerritt had assisted, moving about with a doleful countenance, far more disconsolate than the Squire himself, who was trying his best to be brave. And now Jerritt was off on the errand he dreaded most—to order Williams the teamster, to come for the first load of goods that afternoon, for somehow the Squire hated to go himself.

Jerritt stumbled as he entered the stable, catching the toe of his clumsy shoe on one of the cleats nailed down to keep the horses from slipping while entering or leaving the stable. Some one laughed but the negro did not notice the merriment.

"Marse Puls'ver wants yer to—send a—team—up afore noon," said Jerritt, approaching Williams.

No one laughed now. Somehow they all felt sorry for the faithful negro who had served the Squire all his life. They saw the great tears rolling down his cheeks and his broken voice touched their hearts.

"Yes, I'll be there all right, Rog," replied the teamster. "Keep a stiff upper lip my boy, may be there's better times ahead. Col. Lane is a rascal and I'd tell him so if he was here, this minute."

"Rog takes it mighty hard," said one of the men as the negro lumbered off. "He's quiet enough and always has been, but if I was in the Colonel's shoes I'd rather not meet him alone."

Meanwhile the Colonel returned home and left his team standing before the house, his wife seated in the carriage, awaiting his return from the library, intending to continue the drive.

Jerritt was slowly tramping home again, his eyes fastened upon the ground, his hands still deep in his pockets. The express from Nashville whizzed over the crossing twenty rods below the Colonel's mansion. Suddenly there was a wild clattering of hoof beats and Jerritt saw the Colonel's horse tearing down the road, the reins dragging in the dust.

An equestrian had left a spirited horse standing by the roadside less than two rods from where Jerritt was when the Colonel's team ran away. Quick as a flash the negro took in the situation. He saw the runaway and heard the scream of the Colonel's wife. Inside of five seconds he had mounted the fiery horse that he saw just ahead of him, and was off in hot pursuit of the vanishing carriage.

"Here, you black rascal!" yelled the owner of the steed, returning in time to see Jerritt digging his heels into the animal's ribs, "come back or I'll——"

The Colonel had seen his horse start, and running out of the house and into the street, interrupted the horseman's flow of words.

"The man's after my team, you imbecile," roared the Colonel, excitedly.

Jerritt, meanwhile, was getting all the speed possible out of his mount. Never had the horse known aught save kindness in the past and the furious kicks and blows goaded him on at a pace he had never shown before. On and on Jerritt flew, gaining perceptibly on the runaway, but with much ground yet to cover ere he could overhaul the Colonel's horse.

Suddenly the pursued showed a spurt of speed that quickly increased the distance separating him from Jerritt.

"Get! Get!" shouted the negro in his horse's ear, driving his heels furiously into the animal's flanks, beating him unmercifully with his hard hands.

And the horse did show what he could do. Maddened by the kicks and blows which Jerritt continued to shower upon his sleek sides, he bolted, and the manner in which he closed up the interval showed the metal of the horse.

"Hold on tight, missus!" shouted Jerritt as he passed the swaying vehicle. "Hold on tight! Tight!"

Like lightning the negro snatched at the horse's bridle as he rode neck and neck with the Colonel's horse. There was a short and sharp struggle for the mastery. With his left hand he reined his own mount until the animal reared upon his haunches; and with his right he yanked at the bridle of the Colonel's horse. A moment more Jerritt was master of the situation.

"Who are you, my brave man?" asked the Colonel, meeting Jerritt returning with the carriage and saddle-horse; he was near-sighted and he did not recognize the Squire's man.

Just then the negro remembered that which he had forgotten in the excitement of the moment. Remembered that before him was the man who was about to turn the Squire out of his house and for a moment he did not respond.

"Who am I?" he said, his voice rising, "I'll tell yo' who I am, Marse Lane, I'm Marse Puls'ver's nigger. What for yo' turn him out doors? He ever hurt yo'?"

"No, he hasn't done me any harm, Rog," said the Colonel, somewhat disconcerted, "but——"

"Then what for yo' take the ol' place away?" demanded Jerritt, interrupting the Colonel.

"Just a matter of business, Rog, business, that is all."

"Business!" cried the negro, with fine sarcasm, "yo' call business to turn ol' man out o' house an' home when he ain't done yo' no hurt? I wish I'd let yo' ol' trap gone to Jericho!"

"See here," said the Colonel, earnestly, "Rog, you have done me a good turn to-day. Let this unpleasant affair drop. What can I do for you in return? Rog I'll buy you if it costs me ten thousand dollars, buy you and set you free."

The Colonel was inclined to be forgetful at times and sometimes forgot all about there having been a war and that there were no more slaves.

"Buy me?" yelled Jerritt, "I'm free, Marse Lane, an' ef I wasn't I'd ruther be Marse Puls'ver's slave a hundred years than belong to yo' fo' a minute!"

"Sho!" said the Colonel, smiling at his own forgetfulness and Jerritt's loyalty to the Squire.

Then for a moment neither spoke. The Colonel looked at his wife in silence and a very tender light came into his grey eyes and a solitary tear fell on the reins which hung loosely on the Colonel's knees.

"Rog," said the Colonel at length, laying his hand on the negro's shoulder, "jump in here and ride to the house with me; I want to talk with you."

For a moment the indignant negro hesitated. What if the Squire should see him with the Colonel? What would he think? Thus Jerritt reasoned with himself, but finally he complied and together they rode back to the house.

The Colonel took a number of papers from a pigeon-hole in his desk and presently began to write. Jerritt sat opposite him awkwardly fumbling his hat.

"You can't read, can you, Rog?" said the Colonel placing a document within a long envelope and sealing it.

"No," said Jerritt, his heart bitter, "no, Marse Lane, an' I don't want to, neither. I'd ruther have a kind heart then read an' write like de pres'dent."

"Just so," replied the Colonel, soothingly. "Now take this letter to the Squire and don't lose it."

"What yo' sendin', Marse Lane?" asked Jerritt, a suspicion of something, he scarcely knew what, crossing his mind.

"Rog," said the Colonel, placing his hand kindly upon the negro's shoulder, "you thought me a hard man, and it was right, but there was a tender spot, and you found it. I don't hold anything against him now. He'll understand."

"Marse Lane, do yo' mean it?"

"Of course I mean it," said the Colonel, his eyes glistening, "and now go home, you baby."

Hurriedly Jerritt left the house, a great lump in his throat threatening to choke him ere he could reach home and lay the envelope in the Squire's hands. Never before had the sun seemed so bright as at that hour. Never before had the birds sung so sweetly. Everything was different than when he had left the plantation in the morning. Then, the birds sang because they were glad they were to be turned out, and the sun was glad, too. Now the birds sang more sweetly than ever because they rejoiced, knowing that all was well, and the sun rejoiced for a like reason.

A short distance from the house he overtook Williams' team, coming for the first of the goods.

"Hi, there!" sang Jerritt, running ahead of the team, "stop yar hosses, Marse Williams. We ain't goin' away, de Colonel sez so!"

"What's this?" demanded the teamster, reining his horses. "Did Squire raise the money, Rog?"

"De mortgage is all settled, Marse Williams," said the negro, not telling his part in the adjustment. "Just turn yer hosses round. Yer ain't wanted."

"If that's so, Rog, I'm glad of it," said Williams, backing his team, to turn, "I'd rather lose the job ten times over than see the Squire go."

"What does this mean?" demanded the Squire, meeting Jerritt at the gate a moment later. "What did Williams turn back for?"

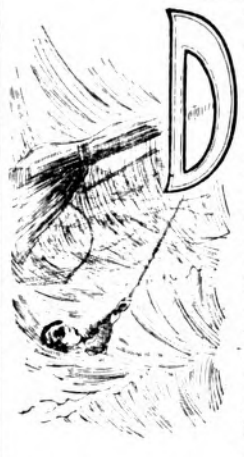
"What for', Marse Puls'ver?" said Jerritt, showing his white teeth, "'cause he ain't wanted. Marse Lane tol' me to hand yo' dis yere."

The Squire's hands trembled as he tore open the envelope and as he read a mist gathered before his eyes. When he had finished he looked a full minute into the honest face before him. Two tears rolled down his cheeks and as he grasped Jerritt's hand he did not trust himself to speak, but Roger understood.

FOILED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE A. BAKER.

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DON'T yer raise yer ugly hand to ther lad agin, or one of us will find a berth in Davy Jones' fleet!"

Old, grizzly, rough John Holland, able seaman aboard the Flying Fish, a trim clipper on her homeward voyage from Cadiz to Boston, spoke the words between his teeth, as with flashing eyes and heaving breast, he faced the ship's mate, Zenas Barker, who had cruelly struck a frail lad of but twelve years; a stowaway who had crawled out of his hiding place when two days out.

The mate had ordered the boy to the mast-head; but one look at the dizzy height caused him to pale and his body to shake as with the Chagves fever.

Holland had been the first one to discover the lad, and upon hearing his story had believed it and promised him his protection. In trembling tones he told the old sailor a story of a dead mother and a drunken stepfather, who beat him when he failed to bring him money to continue his maudlin sprees and sent him supperless to his bed of straw.

"Take that, you dirty brat!" roared the mate, as he saw the lad hesitate, striking him with his open hand.

"Obey orders or die!" and the brute raised his huge clenched fist when John Holland stepped out from a group of his mates who were interested spectators of the scene.

Barker's eyes flashed gloomy forebodings for the old sailor who had dared to beard the lion in his den.

The captain strode forward at this moment.

"What's up, Barker?"

"Holland's mutinied, sir."

"What! A mutiny aboard the Flying Fish? By the gods, man! you'll wish you'd never signed articles aboard this craft."

"Cap'n, I've never refused to obey an order, night or day, sence I've sailed with you. But if ther mate strikes thet boy for not going to the top, with his ugly fist, I'll—I'll kill him if I hez to swing for it."

And they who listened knew that John Holland meant it.

Calling to the mate the captain walked aft, and for a few minutes they conversed in low tones together.

"Now, Barker, the whole forecastle is back of the kid and Jack Holland, so we'd better go slow and watch our chance when he's off his guard. When the sharks are through with their feast there will be no tongues left to tell tales."

With a smile on his face the mate ordered Holland to go below and the steward to give the lad "a bite o' hoss."

"Be on your lookout, Jack. Ther cuss means yer an' ther lad no good," whispered Bob Harding, a young athletic member of the forecastle.

"Why didn't yer let him strike me, Jack? I'm used ter it, 'n et wouldn't got you inter trouble. You've bin the only friend I hez ever had, Jack, 'n' I'd ruther he killed me than you should git hurted." And the little chap placed both hands on Jack's knees and looked up in his face pleadingly.

The old sailor choked back a sob and dashed back the brine from his weather-stained cheek.

"Somehow, my lad, your comin' hez made old Jack better. It brings back other days when he wasn't at the beck and call of no man. My boy, ef I goes to Davy Jones you hez my trunk there 'n' so long's I'm here you'll stay with me."

After dusk, a few evenings later, the mate might have been seen stealthily creeping out on the bow-sprit, and after a sweeping glance backward, he slashed twice at the footropes and made his way back to the deck, hiding an ugly-looking sheath knife beneath a tarpaulin that lay in the cockpit.

When the hour of midnight was near at hand, as the murderous mate had carefully reckoned, a squall struck the ship nearly throwing her on her beam ends.

"All hands on deck! Holland git out there 'n' tie up that jibtops'l 'n' be d——n quick about it!" roared Barker, walking out to the heel of the bowsprit with a crafty look on his face.

Unsuspectingly Holland placed his weight on the weakened footropes and as the craft buried her knight-heads under the wall of seething foam, he was almost wrenched from his hold. After it had passed he stepped ahead, and as Barker saw his plans foiled by his not cutting deep enough into the ropes, he stepped over the bow and placed his burly form upon the partly severed strands.

At this moment a giant billow came thundering down on the ship and literally buried her in its depths. High above the roar of the storm arose the despairing cry of the mate, swept from his hold into the hissing, seething cauldron.

"They has both gone, but I see ther cuss of a mate jump ther ropes to throw Jack inter ther sea," said Bob Barnicle, scanning the foaming waters in hope to see a sign of his old messmate.

"There's Jack! Hooray! hooray!" they shouted, as the grizzly head of the old sailor was seen to rise on the crest of a comber and clutching the hanging footrope, he rapidly made his way, hand over hand to the deck, where willing hands assisted him to the forecastle. The stowaway sobbed and clung to his protector, who stood leaning against a berth, while the water flowed in little rivers from his soaked garments to the floor.

"When I felt myself goin' I thought I'd sailed my last v'y'ge," said Jack. "But somebody up aloft yonder was keerin' fer old Jack 'n' placed the rope in my fist 'n' I hung on like tar ter a nigger's heel."

It was useless to attempt lowering boats to save the mate, and the Flying Fish was put away on her course.

From that day the Captain was a changed man and his men wondered at his sudden fear and trembling whenever the mate's name was mentioned.

John Holland with his little savings is living in a quiet country village in Massachusetts, and carefully watches the progress of the "stowaway" in his studies at the village school and vows "ther lad shall have ernuff eddication to 'arn a livin' ashore."

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SUNSHINE, BOX 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

JEAN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN THE days of her prosperity, Madame Le Mer had been a person of consequence, and her tall, commanding figure and strong face had gone almost as far to inspire respect and obsequiousness as had the extensive cotton and sugar plantations which her husband owned on the borders of the Bayou Tinlier. But now the husband and the plantations and the prosperity were all things of the past, and Madame's soft, thick hair was as white as the cotton which had once made her name familiar to the brokers and merchants of lower Palafox Street; and under the relentless weight of years and affliction, her tall figure had become bowed, tremulous, and her strong face had grown wrinkled and sad and retrospective. The friends and acquaintances of her prosperity had drifted away with her falling fortunes, and now the only reminder of her former state was the title of Madame, and the respect it conveyed. Even the rich bourgeois who gave her washing and plain sewing spoke of her courteously as "Madame." Many of them did not know why; only, the old families did it, and, besides, there was a certain air of distinction about the tall, bowed figure that unconsciously commanded their deference.

Time was when the Le Mer family had had many representatives; but the war had taken some, and the fever had taken some, and the rest had followed the vanishing prosperity of the house and gradually been lost sight of. Now, there were only Madame and her tall, big-eyed grandson in the whole city. They lived in a shabby, two-room house near the wharves, and Madame washed and ironed and sewed, and Jean sold papers and ran errands and did chores, and between times he went to the public school on the corner; and in the evenings, when there was no work and no public school, his grandmother taught him from the lore of her own studious days in the pension in far away France.

At fourteen, Jean was already dreaming and planning for his future. He would be a physician and surgeon, like his father; and he would own cotton and sugar plantations and be good to everybody, just as his father had been. Only he did not say much of this to his grandmother. One day when he had mentioned it she had caught him to her with a wild, passionate "*Non, non, mon cher! mon petit fils! N'oubliez pas votre pere!* You are all that I have, little Jean, *mon enfant!* You must *never* leave me. Surely *le bon Dieu* can not ask more."

Since then Jean had kept his ambition to himself. He helped provide the few necessities for the house, and bought little luxuries for his grandmother; and even after these expenditures, was able to save occasional pennies from his papers and errands and chores to purchase books on the science he loved. As he grew older he longed for an opportunity to go away to the great medical schools, as his father had done. He worked harder, and began to store up dollars instead of cents; only, as his hoard increased, he would discover that his grandmother's clothing was getting shabby, or that there was some expensive food or cordial in market that would please her, and then his money would melt away. But it did not matter, he would tell himself consolingly, *la grandmere* was getting old and needed these things; there was plenty of time.

So he saved more money, and spent it for *la grandmere*; and hoarded again, and again lavished it on *la grandmere*. But all the time he was working and studying and thinking. He bought books when he could, and he borrowed books and pamphlets from the free library and from an old physician who was becoming interested in him. And this same old physician took him to the hospital and explained cases; and occasionally, even allowed him to assist in the work. At eighteen, Jean had a general knowledge of hospital practice, and his untrained course of reading had been modified and made useful by the advice and companionship of the old physician. But there was much yet for him to learn, and more and more he realized the necessity of spending a few years in a good medical college.

He was earning steady wages now as clerk in a drug store; but *la grandmere* was getting more feeble, and every day there were new things to be purchased for her comfort. The college was a long way off, but it would come, he told himself, confidently. Some day *la grandmere* would see the future as he did, and then her strong, true self would be the first to bid him go. For the present, he was young and could wait; he would not urge matters. *La grandmere* had suffered—ah! *le bon Dieu* knew how she had suffered. Few women were called upon to sacrifice husband and sons and brother in one short week. *Non, non;* he would not urge matters.

Every year there were rumors of yellow fever in the city, but only once or twice in a lifetime did it become the tidal wave of death which had desolated *la grandmere's* life. Jean had been only a child then, but each year it was brought home to him by the mute terror which the rumors brought into the dear old eyes. At such times he would draw her to him and promise never to leave without her consent.

The old physician had been a classmate of his father's, and had always treated *la grandmere* with tender deference and sympathy. One day he met Jean on the street and told him that he must not return to the hospital; there were cases of fever just brought in, and it would not be safe. So Jean waited, and a few days multiplied the cases to twenty; and then a few more days, and the city was hushed in the apprehension of a great terror. Business ceased, and those who were able fled to the hills, to the North, out to sea, anywhere to get away from the plague. The hospital was soon full, and there were not enough physicians and nurses to look after them; then new buildings were levied upon for the temporary use of patients; and then—the whole city become a hospital.

Jean had been working day and night at the drug store, but that was not enough. He had a fair knowledge of medicine, and there was a woeful lack of physicians and nurses. An appeal had been made to the country at large; but it would take time for volunteers to arrive, and just now every moment was precious. He left the drug store and went home.

"Thank God you are come, Jean," cried *la grandmere*, fervently, as he entered, "I have been counting up our money, and we have twelve dollars. It will take us back among the hills. We can get along some way, *mon cher*, and at least you will be safe."

But Jean threw his head back and looked at her silently; and *la grandmere*, after one swift, agonized glance at his set face, fell back into her chair with a low cry.

"I feared it would be so, *mon petit fils, mon pauvre petit fils,*" she moaned. "*Le bon Dieu* has dealt severely with me, and I hoped that He would let this pass. "*Non, non,*" as he was about to speak, "I know what you would say. There are hundreds dying, and no one to minister to them. You would give your life—ah, *mon Dieu!* I know it is right. I have been through it before, and gave all I had. But it was hard, *mon petit* Jean. I am an old woman now, and not so strong as I was when your father and two boy uncles came and looked at me as you do now. Not one of them came back to me, little Jean—not one. *Ah mon Dieu! mon pauvre petit fils!*" She rocked to and fro, and obeying a sudden impulse Jean sprang to her side and threw his arms across her shoulders.

"*Non non,*" he whispered, "I will not leave you. We will go back among the hills."

Madame shivered as though from a blow; and as she rose slowly from her chair there came to her face the same strong, resolute expression which Jean remembered to have seen far back in his childhood.

"It is right that you should stay, Jean," she said, simply. "I knew it all the time, but I was weak. May *le bon Dieu* overlook our frailties. "*Oui,*" in answer to his look, "you may leave me now. They need you more than I. But hold me close once more, little Jean; we may never see each other again. Now, *gardez vous bien!*"

She was standing firm and erect when he looked back at her from the door; then he turned away, and gave himself and his thoughts to the duty before him.

Madame scarcely left her room during the terrible weeks that followed. Occasionally she heard hushed whispers along the sidewalk; and, every morning, the dull rumble of the dead cart, stopping here and there on the street to pick up its silent passengers. She did not listen for the footsteps of Jean; she had given him up.

Rumors reached her of physicians and nurses dying at their post, and of the gradual extension of the plague to other coast cities; but she scarcely heeded. She had given up her future, and now she was gradually falling back into dreaming of the past.

One day slow, uncertain footsteps shuffled along the sidewalk, and then the door opened and Jean stood before her, big-eyed and emaciated.

"The plague has run itself out," he said, wearily. "They have no further use for me."

Madame looked at him wonderingly, incredulously; then, as she caught him in her arms a look of ineffable joy drove the expression of stony resignation from her face.

"*De bon Dieu* has blessed me," she said, reverentially, "even while I was censuring him. '*N'oubliez pas, mon petit fils.*'"

CAMPING OUT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AMONG Indians, camping out is not a recreation, but a practical necessity. As game becomes scarce in one section, camp is moved to another; from river to lake, and from open country to forest, back and forth, as the exigencies of season and game demand. The life is hardy and is conducive to strong lungs and fleet limbs and clear eyes, and there is an exhilaration and fascination about it that appeals strongly to the imagination. The camp-grown brave who is afterwards "civilized" in some Eastern college, is more than apt to return to the free, untrammelled life as years crowd in upon him. Civilization is a shutting in from nature, and while it adds to comfort it inevitably circumscribes and dulls the imagination.

This becomes more and more appreciated as nations advance in civilization. The camp gives way to the cabin, and this to the encompassing walls and confined atmosphere of later dwellings. Then comes the long quest of awakening ambition, fortune, achievement, education, or whatever it may be—and this in a measure obtained, the wearied adventurers pause and gaze back over the trail they have conquered. Then with this first leisure comes a surging of the nomadic instincts they had thought subjugated, and they have a longing for the woods and fields, and for the wild, free animal life they had all but forgotten.

The new purposes and the old unconventional existence, are incompatible; but like labor and sleep, the one may be made stronger by the frank recognition of the other. Every year new recruits are added to the army of campers, and whether the tarrying beside still waters or among towering peaks be for a week or month, the brain and muscle laborers return to their work with renewed strength and reinvigorated purpose. There is a tonic among the balsamic pines and on the breezy lakes that physicians are quick to appreciate and prescribe, and everywhere it is becoming more and more understood that the most salutary drug is the one administered by homeopathic nature.

Already we are fast becoming a race of campers and now there is scarcely a student or a clerk, a business man or a man of leisure, but must have his outing; and it is lengthened from days to weeks, and from weeks to months, according to occupation and inclination. Every ocean beach and inland lake has its tents and camp paraphernalia, and every clear running stream and forest covert its angler or amateur hunter or explorer.

After the discovery of gold in California, when the great rush to that region set in, camping out was a regular feature of the everyday life of the white man in the far west; and again during the four years from 1861 to 1865, the stern reality was experienced of a million men lodging in tents or upon the ground in the open field.

As a recreation in the United States, camping out seems to have begun on the sandy beaches of the ocean coast of New England, and thence to have extended to the picturesque inland lakes and ponds and river banks, and to the isolated recesses and plateaus of the mountains. Farmers took their families to the shore for a day's clam-bake, or a week's camping and fishing; overworked business men sought health and rest in the open air; students and school boys began to look forward to spending their long vacations in the woods and along the shore; and then—like a great tidal wave—almost everybody, from coast to forest recess and from valley to mountain top, began loading tents, provisions, camp kettles and fishing tackle into boats or wagons preparatory to setting out on their summer vacation.

Nor has the movement toward camp life been confined to boys and young men alone. The relaxation it offers overwrought nerves appeals to grown men and matrons, even as the marvelous and romantic side appeals to young girls. There is a freedom from restraint in the experience that is peculiarly attractive to those whose lives have been circumscribed by set rules, and no one who has spent a night in camp on the bank of some moonlit lake, or upon a mountain side that overlooks hills and valleys and plains, can ever forget the magical beauty of the landscape as night closes down and the weird light of the blazing camp fire flares out among the trees and encompassing shadows.

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EDITOR'S NOTE.—All readers of COMFORT anxious regarding the health of themselves, children, relatives or friends, can have Four Free Preparations of the Doctor's New Discoveries, as represented in the above illustration, with complete directions, by sending full address to Dr. Slocum's Laboratory, New York City.

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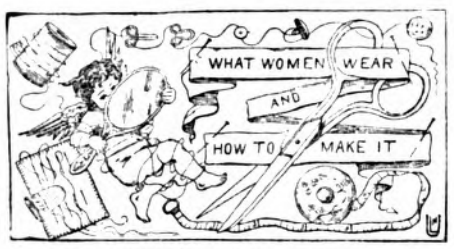
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GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



OF the most trying things relative to dress, during the summer, is the effort to keep one's head stylishly and freshly covered. Floral hats, no matter how seductive they may appear, no, nor how much they may cost, are bound to fade and grow pale and wan under the scathing rays of the summer sun, and of course when their freshness is gone their beauty has vanished. Which only goes to prove that no matter how enticing flower hats are they are not for the woman who cannot afford a number of changes. Tulle hats come under the same ban as to durability. The first dampness and they are as limp as a rag, and their beautiful crispness reduced to a thing of horror; yet they are the most becoming things we have worn in many a day, and if worn with a due amount of discretion can be made to do duty the greater part of the summer. The most serviceable of all hats for country wear have been those of mull in white or pretty light colors, shirred over a wire frame and heavy with great masses of bunched mull with sometimes an osprey or stiff aigrette as ornament. Then there are the hats of yellow or dead white straw trimmed with wheat and field flowers with very often a smart bow of black velvet ribbon to give a touch of color. Leading milliners have been trying all summer to force the bonnet string or tie on many of the smartest hats, but as a usual thing have failed utterly. Occasionally a face is found to whom the tie of tulle or black velvet is becoming but it is a rarity, the general effect being to add to one's age.



AN ODD SILK WAIST.

As midsummer advances the toque in all its forms is appearing, offset by the beloved picture hat without which the summer girl is lost. Many of them are composed entirely of black tulle, or its substitute, mousseline de soie, shirred so closely as not to be at all transparent, and trimmed with large ball choux of the material.

This is the season when economical women are having their tailor gowns for the fall and winter built. They seize this opportunity when work is scarce to have their gowns made much less than would be the case a month or two later when all the feminine world is rushing pell-mell to their modistes and they are shoulder deep in work. One woman I have in mind, who thinks nothing of paying $150 for a plain tailor-made, has taken time by the forelock, and has arranged for her gown this month to be just as elegant as usual, at a reduction of $50 (no small consideration) because the season is so early, and work rather scarce. I was so fortunate as to see the design for her gown which is quite Frenchy in tone and reveals the trend of the coming fall styles. The material is medium weight Scotch cheviot in a mixture of creamy tan, golden brown and black, the whole effect being a soft, warm brown. The skirt is as clinging as ever, I might say even more so, and needs to be patted and coaxed into wrinkleless perfection about the hips, from where it falls in graceful lines well onto the floor, although somewhat shorter than has been the case this season. Grace is the one thing needful, so says the French designer, and to this end all the dressmakers strive. This skirt has an equestrien back, fitting snugly without being too tight, opening down one of the front seams, under the narrow band of brown velvet which ornaments it. The smart little coat is exceedingly short, and perfectly tight fitting, with rounded corners, and perfectly flat over the bustle, all its edges bound with the golden brown velvet, the small revers as well, while the collar has an all-over facing of it. The entire gown is lined with a warm shade of golden brown satin, so soft and silky and clinging.



AN EFFECTIVE COAT.

A novel design about to be made up in pinkish tan cloth is la Princess, the perfectly fitting bodice and skirt merging into one, and buttoned down the whole length of the front from the shoulder to the foot of the skirt, with enameled buttons matching the color exactly. Across the bust is draped heavy black lace, simulating an Eton jacket, with narrow pleatings of black mousseline de soie as an edging. The sleeves are plain and snug, while the collar is extremely high and built of black lace.

Large and small scallops bound with velvet, or plain on the edges are used in profusion on many of the soft wool gowns being worn now for the first time. Sometimes a small button accentuates the points or narrow fancy braid outlines it.

Fringes are more popular then they have been for a number of years, and are being sold in the shops in all widths and in every imaginable color to match all the newest cloths. The present fancy is to use several widths of fringe on the same gown, the deeper for the skirt, the narrower for the bodice. A very pretty guimpe is shown having an inch wide fancy heading with a narrow half-inch fringe finishing it, to be used in rows on the deep circular flounce, so becoming to so many figures.



OF NUN'S VEILING.

A dainty model in soft nun's veiling is shown here, having a fichu of mull exactly the same tint, and trimmings of narrow black velvet ribbon.

Separate waists are always a pleasure, and here is an entirely new design, simple but effective. It fits the figure softly, with no fitting seams save those under the arms; the trimming consists of ribbon quilling set on in scallops. The shirt sleeves are finished with a flaring cuff at the hand.

An effective little coat for cool days is shown here, built of heavy white flannel with no lining, and finished with straps on the edges.

POISONS FOR PLANTS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE question of the poisoning of soils by mineral poisons, used to kill insect and disease-producing fungi, is exciting the attention of the government Bureau of Vegetable Pathology at Washington, and experiments are being made with a view to ascertaining how far danger may arise from such causes.

What is known as Bordeaux mixture, for example, is composed of sulphate of copper and slacked lime. Constantly sprayed upon plants, it must deposit a certain amount of the metallic salts in the soil, which, not being dissolved and carried away by water, would necessarily accumulate and form in the course of time a source of peril not to be overlooked. Though no data exist upon which a reliable estimate can be made, it is imagined that a soil subjected continually to a sprinkling of the kind might become unsuitable for crops in the course of 100 years, the food plants raised on the land absorbing enough copper to injure consumers.

Again, Paris green, so commonly employed for destroying potato bugs and other noxious insects, is composed of arsenious acid and copper salts; in effect, it is a mixture of copper and arsenic—both of them deadly poison. Most of the Paris green that is put on potato plants is strewn upon the leaves and not on the ground, but eventually the plants and their leaves are plowed into the soil, which thus takes up considerable quantities annually. Here likewise there is an obvious danger.

The properties of arsenic as an irritant poison are sufficiently well known. It often happens that people are sickened by this mineral in the wall-paper of the rooms they occupy. One of the worst features of the poisoning that is apprehended from soils in the manner suggested is that it would go on very gradually, so that the people attacked by it would have no notion as to the cause of their ailments. Consequently, the latter would not be successfully diagnosed by physicians in most instances, and the application of antidotes would not suggest itself.

That copper has caused death is disputed. Its salts act on the human system as a violent emetic, and on that account they are not usually dangerous; but the metal has a tendency to accumulate in the body, especially in the liver, and with old and sickly people it is likely to cause functional derangements. Workers in copper absorb it until they become so saturated with it that their eyes sometimes turn green.

Some authorities have claimed that copper is a normal constituent of many foods. More or less of it is found in the bodies of numerous animals, being originally derived from plants whose roots absorbed the salts of the metal from the soil in which they grew. A noteworthy instance is that of an African bird called the "turaco," which feeds on plantains. Its wing-feathers are colored red by a pigment containing six per cent. of copper, which is undoubtedly derived from plantains. Most of the common vegetables reveal on analysis traces of copper, and the metal is usually discovered in minute quantities in the liver and kidneys of human beings.

Much interest, therefore, attaches to the experiments being made by the experts in Washington, who are treating various kinds of soils with regular doses of Paris green, Bordeaux mixture, and other substances of the sort in common use by farmers and horticulturists. After a while, specimens of the soils will be analyzed in order to find out just how much poison they contain, and a reckoning will be made with the idea of ascertaining for how long a time such poisons can be applied without involving danger. It is feared that, unless some precautions are taken in this matter, whole populations at a future period may be sickened by plant-foods containing perilous percentages of metallic salts.

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The Director-General of Agriculture of Belgium has issued an order that all animals of the bovine species which have attained the age of three months shall thereafter always wear earrings. This is not intended for the ornamentation of the beasts, especially, but is a hygienic measure, intended to prevent the introduction into Belgium of any animals suffering from tuberculosis. Breeders are obliged to keep an exact account of all animals raised by them, and the ring (on which is engraved a number) is fastened in the animal's ear in the hope of thereby preventing the substitution of one animal for another.

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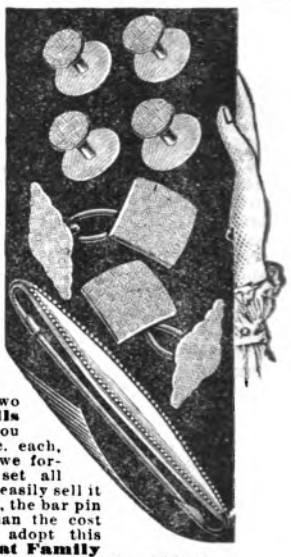
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THERE is no end, apparently, to the minor inventions that are being patented for the use of bicyclers. The patent office records, both in this country and Europe, show a marked activity in the line of bicycle attachments, construction, details, fixtures and applications of the bicycle principle. Not a week passes but that there are numerous patents granted in this field, the number being only comparable, perhaps, to electric patents generally.

Leopold Bernheimer of New York has added a device to the bicycle lamp by which pedestrians can tell at a glance whether the light they see pointing at them is on a bicycle at rest or in motion. It consists of a disc of colored glass, preferably red, in front of the lantern lens. When the wheel is in motion this is rapidly rotated by a wind wheel operated by the wheel's passage through the air. When the wheel is at rest the interrupter is also still.

Roller skates with pneumatic tires, although several years old have made little progress in America, but there are several patterns on sale in the athletic goods stores. They are designed for over hill and dale and not merely for recreation upon the smooth floor of a rink. The wheels are three inches in diameter and an expert can make a speed of ten miles an hour over a sidewalk or country road of average smoothness and firmness.

Another novelty is a rawhide-covered link chain. The rawhide cover is applied to the surface of the links and held in place with clamping blocks secured to the opposite sides for the purpose of affording greater traction between the individual links and the sprocket wheel.

A puncture proof tire is claimed to be obtained by the combination of a flexible outer cover and a puncture proof shield inclosing an ordinary rubber tire. The shield consists of a layer of cork around the periphery of the rim and the circumference of the inflated tire, with a layer of celluloid on the top of the cork and a waterproof cement uniting the two. Outside of this is the flexible outer rubber covering which is attached to the rim proper. A composition for repairing leaks in punctured tires is described in another patent as composed "of a heavy, nonoleous liquid consisting partly or entirely of glycerine and containing a gelatinous mineral substance in suspension."

Something to suit the tastes of the crack-a-jacks and that numerous army who fancy uniqueness in all things is to be found in the designs of a new set of handle bars. Ever since the ram's horn handle bars made their appearance, their shape has become more and more exaggerated, but it would seem that these bars are extravagant and striking enough in their outline to please even the most exacting fiend.

A Brussels, Germany, man has invented a bicycle frame that is not rigid. The saddle post stands upright from the crank axle. At its base two strong steel springs are securely attached which bend outward and are fastened to the front and rear forks respectively by metal rods. The entire fore part of the frame is independent of the rear part, and when riding over rough ground the jars and shocks are taken up absolutely by the springs in the wheel. People who have tried it claim that it is the easiest-riding wheel that they have ever used, and its construction is strong and durable, although it is built as lightly as the ordinary rigid-frame bicycle.

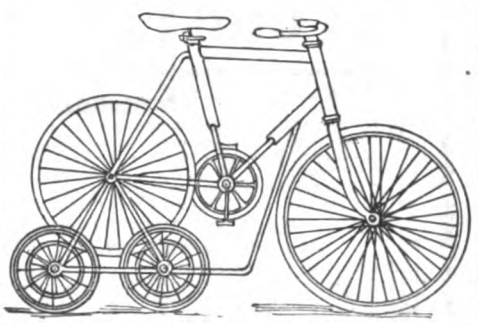
A bicycle built on the principle of the Holman Locomotive has been conceived by a Chicago groceryman. He went to work with such tools and materials as came handy and got together a rough wheel which he says has demonstrated the soundness of his conclusions. "Of course the principle is not mine," he says, "but I am the first man to think of applying it to a bicycle and as such the patent office has protected my rights. What I claim is that any average rider can make from forty to fifty miles an hour on this style of wheel while riders of the same class are going fifteen or twenty miles on the ordinary safety. The increase in speed brings no increase in exertion—it is as easy to pedal forty miles an hour on a friction wheel as it is to run ten miles on those now in use."

His latest wheel is of the chainless variety; the power is obtained by a smooth-faced pedal wheel revolving against a large driving wheel, which in turn imparts motion to the ground wheels.

A cycling amateur photographer recently exhibited his combined bicycle pump and camera holder and his bicycle tripod. The former is an ordinary pump fitted with screw threads at the large end while the nipple of the rubber tube is screwed and fits in the brass nut in the camera. The tripod consists of an extension foot hinged to the frame and, when not in use, suspended from a hook placed for the purpose beneath the saddle.

Then there is the convertible tandem shown in the cut. This machine is jointed in such a way that it is readily taken apart and used as a tandem or as a single wheel. When this comes onto the market, what a convenience it will be for the family man!

After patenting all the individual parts of a bicycle hundreds of times over, the bicycle inventor has turned his attention to the costumes to be worn, which have been similarly treated. The large number of women's garments patented and, strange to relate, most of them by men, should surely bring forth the much sought ideal garment before long. Men's clothing not being so complicated or requiring such delicate and exact adjustment of parts, has not received such extended attention, but the patented convertible trousers shown embody a good idea. This patent covers an internal circular cuff united to each leg below the knee of the ordinary long trousers to cover the inseams and constitute a contracting



FRICTION-GEARED BICYCLE.

band with the trousers when the latter are turned up. On doubling up the bottoms of the trousers legs several times the final roll renders the cuff external, causing it to appear on the outside, thus giving the finished appearance of knickerbockers with golf extensions.

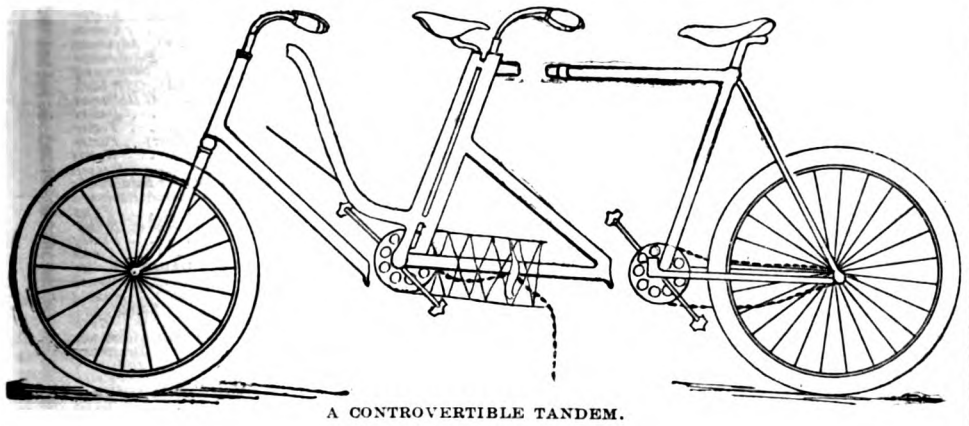


THE BELIEF in the magic power of precious stones dates back to ancient times.

The Shah of Persia always wears a cube of amber around his neck, and among other properties it is supposed to have the power of rendering its wearer invisible. It is said to have fallen from heaven in the time of Mahomet.

Disraeli wore a ring set with a sardonyx, which is supposed to bestow the gift of eloquence.

Upon the birth of every Rothschilds girl baby six pearls are purchased, each costing five hundred dollars, and upon each birthday six more pearls are added, so that when the young lady is of an age to make her bow to the world she has a magnificent collection of pearls.



A CONTROVERTIBLE TANDEM.

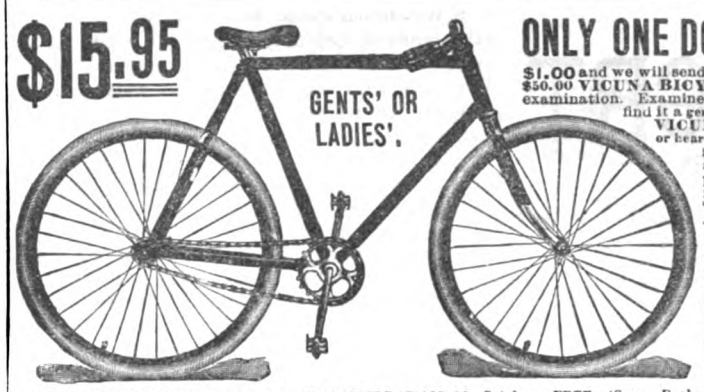
The Emperor of Germany wears agate, which is said to insure long life, health and prosperity.

In one of the most beautiful parks at the Spanish capital there is a statue of the patron saint, and around the neck of the statue there is a chain from which is suspended a most beautiful ring of pearls and diamonds. The ring was made for the present king's father, and he gave it to his first wife, Mercedes, for a betrothal ring. She died soon after her marriage. The ring then went to Queen Christina, who soon died, and then it was given by the king to his sister who died within the month. The ring than passed to the daughter of a Duke, and in less than three months she, too, lay dead. The king then put the jewel into his own treasure box, and before the year was out he was dead. It was then thought best to put the ring out of the family altogether, and so it was hung around the neck of the statue of the patron saint, and it does not need a guardian, as it is looked upon with horror by all, and no one could be induced to appropriate it.

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SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Fulton, Desplaines & Wayman Streets, **CHICAGO.**



IT is interesting to note the prices which the government paid for the private yachts it bought during our war with Spain. The Penelope, afterwards called the Yankton, cost $125,000. Mark Hanna's "Commanche", afterwards called "Frolic" cost $115,000. The Merrimac, $342,000; The Mayflower cost the government $430,000. The Corsair afterwards the Gloucester, $225,000. The Scorpion, $300,000. The ambulance ship Solace was purchased for $600,000. The Harvard and Yale were the ocean liners New York and Paris, and for the use of these two boats Uncle Sam paid $2000 a day throughout the whole war.



WALKING fish are certainly a rarity—and yet the London naturalists have at last captured some. They were first found in a dry place and were thought to have been left there by the tide; further observation, however, showed that the fish came there voluntarily; they leap from stone to stone, as a frog does, but do not resemble a frog, as they are about the size of a small English minnow, and have two very strong breast fins, which they use as propellers.

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We have a special oil Portraiture of **Admiral Dewey** which now that he will soon be with us is just what everybody wants. Besides being an entirely new combination of oil Lithographic colors it shows the **Hero of Manila** and his six great battleships in action. It is the best portrait of **Admiral Dewey** ever colored up. This Picture is surrounded by a beautiful wreath and combined with the bright-colored artistic festooning of American Flags, makes the most striking and patriotic souvenir ever published. It is one of those happy thoughts and perfect combinations that at once touches the heart and head and cements the whole country in one solid mass of patriotic love. The sale of these Gems is simply enormous. We have secured a limited number which we want to introduce as Samples and when the next million edition is gotten out we know they will go off like the Great Guns of this Pictured fleet, **quick and right to the mark** where the samples have been sent. Bought in large lots we can sell them for only 10 cents each.

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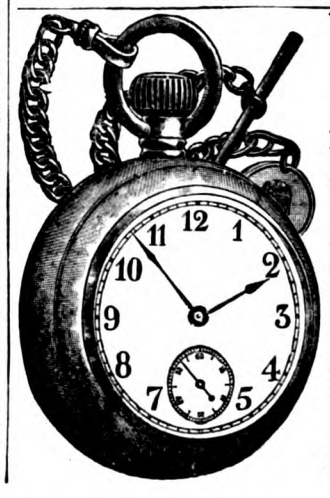
Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

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August marks the tercentenary of the great Flemish artist Vandyck. A special issue of postage stamps has been made and a great exhibition of his most celebrated paintings is to be seen at the Hague. No royalty that he painted is so charming as the fair young queen who leads her subjects in showing honor to the painter on this three hundredth anniversary.

Henry Ward Beecher once apostrophized August as the "Fire month." It has lost none of its old time reputation but the American people have begun to realize that we have a tropical climate for a few months in the year. By dressing, living, working and eating up to that idea they have a much greater degree of comfort than in the days when the summer vacation was an unknown quantity.

A recent scientific proposition is the building of houses of glass. These are so hard as to be practically indestructible and he who lives in one of these glass houses may throw all the stones he pleases in utter disregard of the old proverb. The bricks cost no more than those made of ordinary clay. Glass is a nonconductor and the lightning rod man will have to go out of business when glass houses become common. Some specimens of houses of this new building material are to be found in France. One writer grows enthusiastic over the soothing effect produced by the pale green light that came through his glass walls.

Spain's session to Germany of the twenty islands of the Ladrone group and the remark of the Queen Regent "It is useless for Spain to retain such minor appendages of our ancient empire" brings strongly to mind the extent of that empire. In the height of her power Spain ruled over Spain, The Netherlands, Austria and Portugal. Her King Charles was elected Emperor of Germany. Nearly all of South America, and much of North America was under the control of the Emperor. His successor Philip II. had for his crest a horse leaping at the sun with the motto "The earth is not sufficient." The tragic contrast of the Spain that was and the Spain that is, is scarcely paralleled in nations.

"Mr. Dooley" seems to have made the hit of the year with his shrewd comments on the world as it is. The Chicago reporter who began to air his sentiments through the words of the Roscommon Irishman has found his readers grow from those of the Chicago newspaper to the English speaking world. One great point in favor of Mr. Dooley is that his remarks are very quotable. Nothing more to the point in regard to the "goings on" in France has been written than Mr. Dooley's remark, "The Fr-rench are an onaisy and a thrubbled people." For the past year France has seemed to be on the borders of revolution. They take themselves so seriously that occasionally they force the rest of the world to attention in spite of its opinion that nothing really serious can come of the perpetual hysterics.

English as "she is spoke" in America seems to have a peculiar vitality. In spite of our mixed population drawn from every nation of the world and speaking all tongues and dialects, the per cent. of English speaking people is far in advance of all others. While many adults fail to learn the language of the country the second generation speak it as though it were their mother tongue. A large percentage of the native born inhabitants of the British Isles cannot speak English—the language of the nations for thousands of years. Over half a million Welshmen speak Welsh only and in the Highlands of Scotland nearly fifty thousand speak Gaelic. There are nearly forty thousand Irishmen who speak Erse, the native Irish tongue. In all, six languages are spoken by native born inhabitants of the British Isles. "United States" evidently has a power of growth greater than that of English as spoken in England.

One of the most significant remarks made at the Woman's Congress in London was the one that designated woman's clubs as a feature of a transectional stage in the woman question. The separations of the sexes and the theory that woman is to have a separate place in the world's effort will pass where woman has maintained her right to the equal position that she claims no reform or change of public sentiment was ever made without radical effort. Women have felt that they must alone make the struggle for equality; when it has been won more natural conditions will follow and "Woman's Congress" will be unknown. Women will quietly take their places at the general meetings of the professions they may follow—not because they are women but because they are lawyers, or doctors, professors or ministers, artists or journalists. When that day comes it will have been made possible through the efforts of pioneer women along these lines and it is these women who have made a great success of the London meeting of the International Congress of Women.

The different "Fresh air" societies in large cities are actively engaged in sending poor children for a week of pure air and wholesome food. The people of the rural districts have ably assisted in this thoughtful generosity for many years. Side by side with this effort for the brightening of life to thousands of poor people has grown and developed a system of out-door amusement in the cities. It was found that many children became lonesome at the separation from parents and familiar scenes and that this mental unrest prevented them from receiving the full measure of benefit. Plans have been matured by means of which children with their mothers are given a day's outing, returning home at night. In New York vast recreation piers have been built and opened to the public. Music is furnished and here the tired workers with their children may forget the cares of the day and breath fresh salt air that has not swept over a great city. The open air gymnasium is a feature that has been introduced but recently but which meets with most unqualified praise. Horizontal bars, rings and poles are provided and from the moment the gymnasium is opened until it closes there is an eager throng waiting for the individual turns at the apparatus. Many of these gymnasiums are supported by the city while some are maintained by private funds. They mean amusement and recreation but more than that they mean the development of a higher physical standard in the cities. There is an ethical side as well as a philanthropic one, for the sound body helps the sound mind and the sound mind means a decrease of crime. In hundreds of the public schools the playgrounds are thrown open at certain hours of the day and an instructor is provided whose duty is to teach the children how to play. Piles of sand are placed in the yards and the smaller children are allowed to play as they choose. The summer is growing to be the happiest time of the year to poor children in the cities that are taking an intelligent direction of summer schools, playgrounds, recreation piers and open air gymnasiums. Under their influence the slums are vanishing and "slum children" are being trained into intelligent citizens.

The public school system of America is a just course of pride to our citizens. The fact that these schools are absolutely free schools and that the opportunity for an education can be grasped by all is the corner stone of our idea of government. In spite of this fact the public school is often the subject of severe criticism. It is no doubt true that our methods might be improved in many ways. As a nation we can receive much benefit by a candid observation of some features of foreign schools. We claim that the school should fit for life and yet we have failed to recognize the part that technical training plays in the actual work-a-day world. We have trained the mind but left the hand totally unskilled. This we have striven to correct in late years by the introduction of mechanical drawing and manual training with its branches of cooking, dressmaking, wood carving and like subjects. Switzerland is far ahead of us in some respects for our sister republic provides six different grades of schools above the primary and many of these a professional housekeeping school. The pupils in one of the best of these schools at Geneva, number about two hundred. The ages are from twelve years up. Thirteen hours per week are given to the usual studies above the elementary grades but seventeen hours are demanded for the special technical work of the school. Geometry is taught with such a practical application as the drafting of a pattern for a dress sleeve. Cooking, washing and ironing, and chemistry as applied to foods are carefully studied. The children cook the dinners which they eat and they are given a week's dinners for the sum of forty cents. The bill of fare includes soup, meat and dessert. While we have included some features of this plan in our public school work we have but few cities where a school is devoted in the main to this training. It is safe to say that five-sevenths of the girls graduating from the High schools would find this practical training of more benefit as a preparation for life than the surface knowledge of mathematics and languages which they acquire under the name of culture. The part of a girl's training that includes a knowledge of cooking, sewing, etc., was once acquired at home. The mother was the teacher and the home was the school for this training. This is still true to a limited extent in many country homes. It died out first in the cities and it is there that manual training was first introduced in the schools. The country schools need this training in sewing at least. During the summer vacations schools are kept open in most of the large cities. Manual training is a very important part of the work. At the close of the session which is in August an exhibition of the work is made. The work in sewing done by these children is surprising. This practical turn to education will surely develop, although as yet we are far behind many foreign nations in this line.

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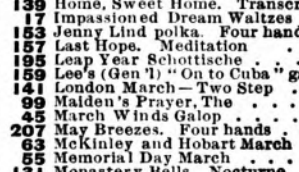
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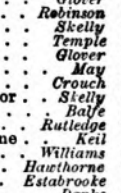


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LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
37	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
51	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal Marc.. from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
47	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
63	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Zichrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
83	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
57	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

Orders to be by Numbers (not names).

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
44	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reissmann
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
54	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasaide

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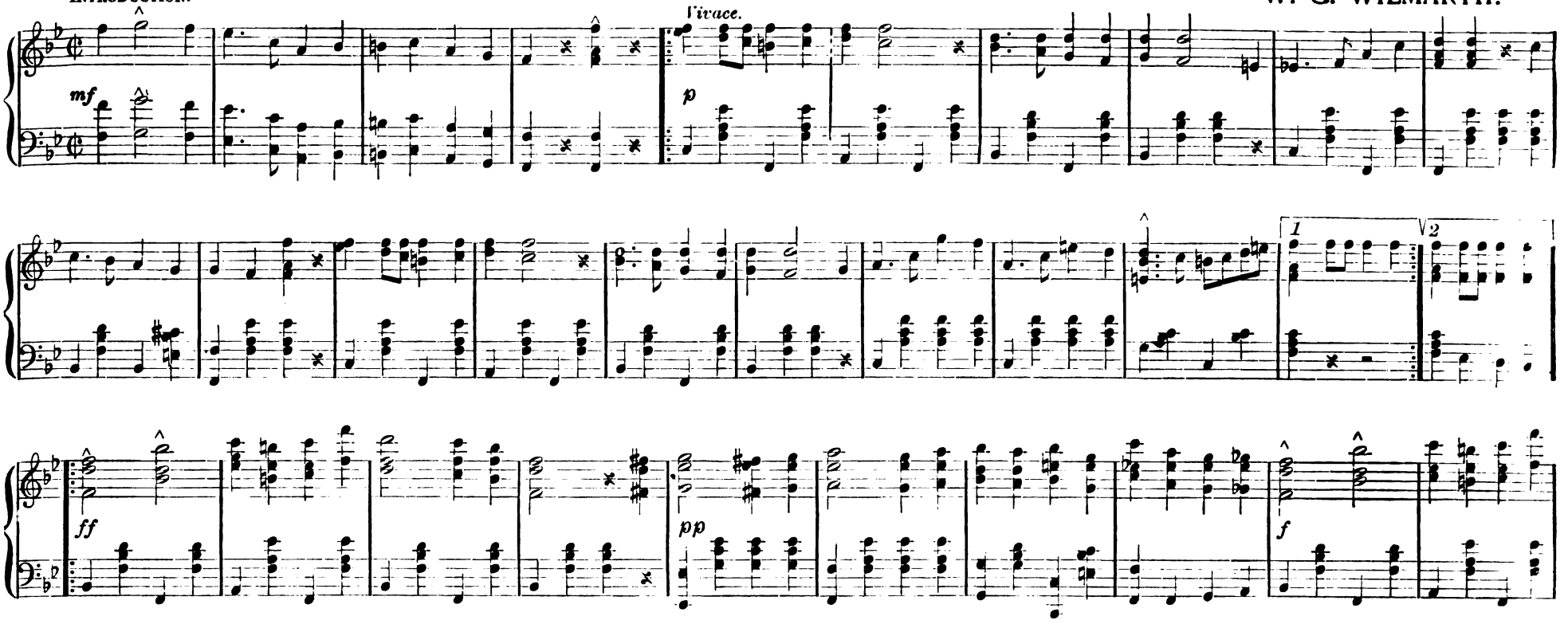
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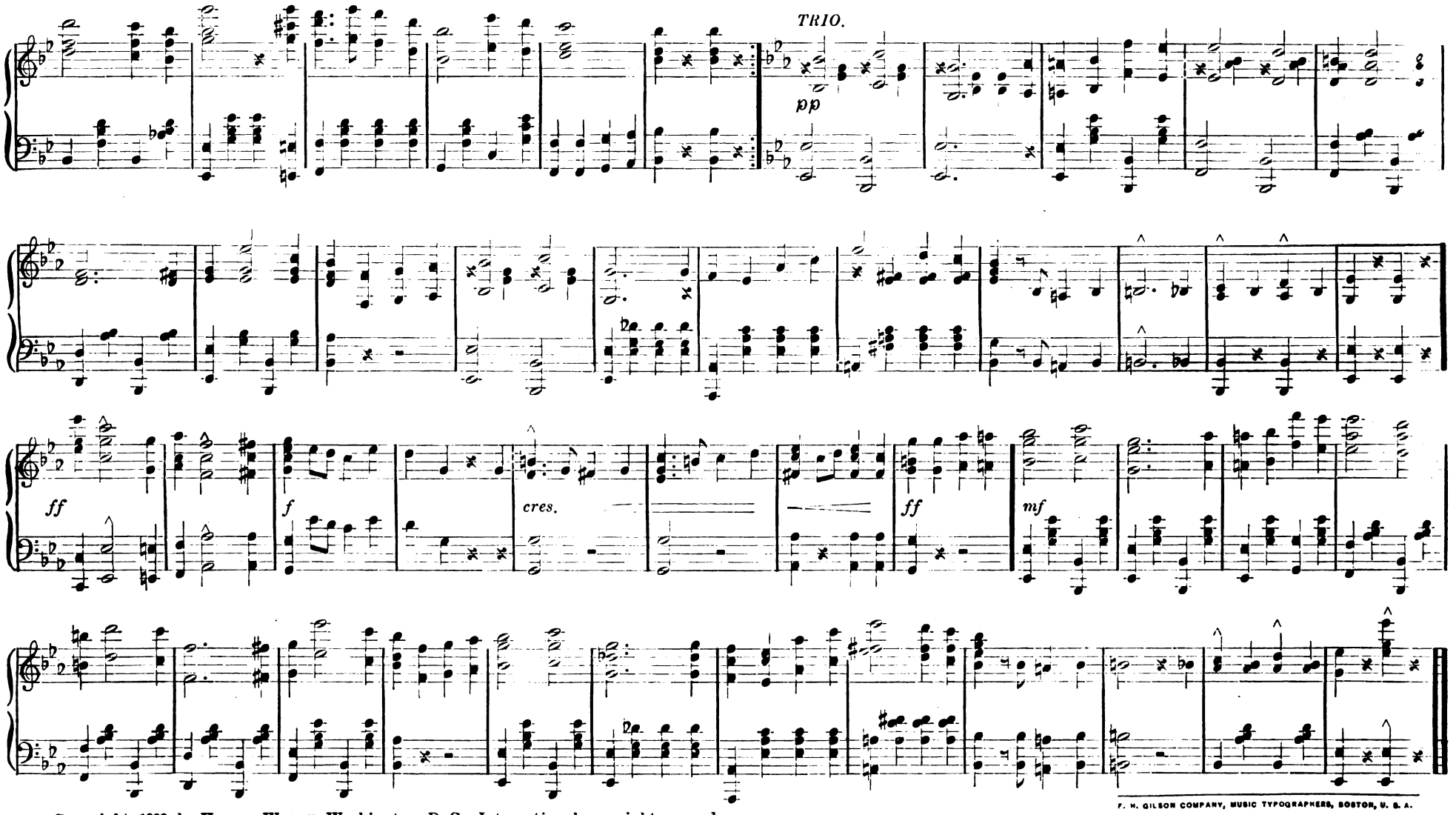
TWO STEP.

INTRODUCTION.

W. G. WILMARTH.



TRIO.



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MUSIC THAT PLEASES.

Readers of COMFORT who play the above piece will be pleased with the brilliancy of this two-step, which like many of those lately appearing as candidates for public favor is patriotic and military in its intention. Since Sousa introduced the swing and rhythm of these popular two-steps there have been a vast number of them given to the public but the above number is among the best. We are pleased to be able to give our readers such a fine example of this catching style of music, which is sure to be appreciated as soon as heard. One of the most gratifying events in the life of COMFORT has been the favor with which our monthly publication of good music has met in the estimation of our six millions of readers. It was with much hesitation that COMFORT originally undertook this music department, for uncertainty as to its desirability ever lurked in the editor's mind. However, all doubts were at once set to rest when trial was made and almost instant appreciation and commendation from our friends resulted.

It was but a step to another idea, the publication of sheet music at low prices. With high-class modern machinery COMFORT could not understand why sheet music could not be produced at a low rate the same as all other printed matter. The price of books, paper and materials had fallen nearly 400 per cent. in ten years and it hardly seemed possible that sheet music could not be published as cheaply as any other printed matter. This, with so many calls for more music, led us to look into the subject. We found the price of sheet music ranging from 40 cents to one dollar a piece and no intention of lower prices.

From that day we have labored incessantly to bring out the very best sheet music at a price so low as to astonish every buyer, and at the same time give the very best in workmanship, material and character. The public has appreciated this effort and nobly responded until we have been encouraged to present the long list of varied pieces which appear in our music offer in another column. COMFORT cannot fully tell how pleasant it is to receive the letters which delighted patrons have poured in showing their satisfaction over this music. We hope that every reader who has received benefit from this offer will send us a word of encouragement and praise; and, that each will remember to show some friend the music itself and our offer.

So rapidly has our method increased in popular favor that already there is a break of at least from 20 to 50 per cent. in the old monopoly prices in music. In department stores and hundreds of other places the brilliant example of COMFORT'S success in selling the best first-class sheet music at popular prices, has led to a wild cutting of prices and while none of them attempt to reach the low charge made by COMFORT'S musical offer, still none of them dare now to ask even the prices printed on their sheets. Such is the great revolution which has been brought about by the progressive spirit of one paper backed by the best and most modern machinery. The day of monopoly prices on sheet music has gone by and a gratified public may well thank COMFORT for the success of its enterprise.

ADELINA PATTI.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

Among all the living artists no prima donna has the popularity or the love of musical people as Adelina Patti, and a few words about her and her daily life cannot help being of great interest to COMFORT'S readers.

This is especially true as Madame Patti has recently attracted world-wide attention by her marriage to Baron Cederstrom, a young man of twenty-eight, upon whom she has settled an annuity of $15,000 as "pin money."

Madame Adelina Maria Clorinda Patti-Nicolini, which is giving her full name, was born in Madrid in the year 1843 and on attaining age had become so marked for her musical power that she was given a full operatic training under Maurice Strakosch. In the meantime she had come to America and made her debut in New York in 1859 in the opera La Sonambula in which her success was so pronounced and instantaneous that she was immediately proclaimed one of the leading prima donnas of the age. It is safe to say that with the single exception of Jenny Lind, no prima donna who has ever visited America was received with the enthusiasm and popularity with which Patti was by the American public.

She was known then and has always been more or less called "the beautiful Spaniard," and the salaries which she obtained both in her first engagement and since have been such as to make both managers and professionals stand aghast, and have never been equaled by any other singer in this country. The most notable of her achievements was to obtain in 1870 from the late Czar, Alexander II., a medal and membership in the Russian Order of Merit, and an appointment as first singer in the Imperial Court. It is estimated that in her lifetime she has earned by her voice no less than $5,000,000 in our money, and no public singer has ever begun to equal the large figures which her earnings have attained at certain times. In one tour, in the year 1888, made in Argentina and Brazil, it is said she cleared between $300,000 and $350,000, receiving for twenty-four nights running as salary alone $8,000.

This great singer now lives in a castle in Wales called Craig-y-Nos and is noted the world over for the liberality and profuseness of her hospitality. It is said no person entertains more gracefully or with more real hospitality than she, and she is to all who know her a warm-hearted, affectionate and modest woman, whose character is above reproach. As an entertainer she has made it a rule not to interfere with her guests, but to leave them at perfect liberty to do as each may please, while at the same time her mind is ever busy arranging and furnishing some novel kind of entertainment.

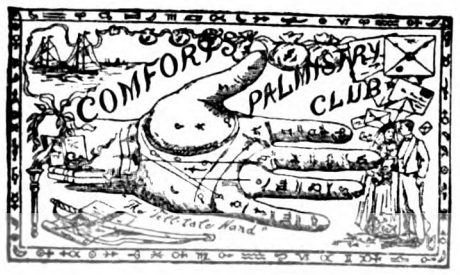
The closest friend and adviser of Patti is Miss Caroline Burkmeister. She has full charge of the entire castle and not an entertainment is given, a servant hired or any event undertaken without her decision. Madame Patti places full reliance upon her and when a question is referred invariably directs the questioner to Caroline.

This lady is the life and soul of the entire castle, and has the keeping of the most valuable articles in her entire possession. Patti herself could not tell a visitor where her most valuable gems were kept, and although certain ones, such as the diamond given her by the Prince of Wales on the occasion of her marriage to Signor Nicolini, are kept in her own room the remainder of the great lot which are valued at over half a million dollars are safely placed within the depths of burglar proof safes and hidden in stone rooms. These are only accessible to Caroline herself.

It is said that it is only when this attendant decides that it is for Patti's advantage to change her jewels that any of these are taken out, when the whole lot of them are thoroughly overhauled and many of them are sent to London to be reset or placed in some modern appendage, while the remainder are returned to their safe keeping; and this care of the jewels also extends over Madame Patti's gowns and even to the selection of the same.

But the actual selection and arrangement of the toilet itself is left to a Mexican maid who is attached to Patti's person. She is an invaluable servant and has always been noted for her exquisite taste, and no person could bring

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12.)



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I HAVE a number of questions to answer this month. First let me say to B. Hunt and to Mrs. J. J. R. of New Hampshire that their readings were used in the June number which I presume they have discovered before this time.

A new member of the Palmistry Club sends a list of questions which I answer here. He asks to have them answered in a self-addressed envelope by private letter but that, as I have often stated, I never do. I am willing to answer all reasonable questions in this department but I cannot undertake to write private letters to the members of this club.

What does it denote when the first joint of the thumb is extremely large and short in an otherwise fine hand? If the first joint is extremely large it means a good deal of combativeness and perseverance; it also shows a strong will, great promptitude in action, a reliable and steady judgment and great self-confidence. You will be impulsive, decided and enthusiastic but you will lack somewhat in logic and will be inclined to be obstinate. If this phalanx is excessively broad it shows ungovernable passions and sometimes brutal tendencies. If the second phalanx is thin and narrow in the center it shows great tact but if thick it shows a lack of that quality. With this broad first phalanx square fingers will offset the tendency to obstinacy and unreasonableness and will at least greatly modify them. On the whole it is a good quality unless carried to very great excess.

Where is the color shown of those who take part in my life, on the lines? which are blonde, which brunette? Lines showing interferences from other people? Lines running from the mount of the moon will show blonde; lines running from the mount of Saturn show dark people.

Where are the children or increase lines or indications? This I have answered many times. They are the fine lines which run on the side of the hand under the little fingers back of the mount of Mercury. It is not possible to tell accurately by these lines the sex of the children although some palmists have gone so far as to say that the deeply-indented ones are boys, the lighter ones girls. It seems to be generally accepted that the long ones indicate children who will live long and the short lines show short-lived children.

What do the wrinkles on the back of the second joint of the thumb denote? The wrinkles do not denote anything but if there is a well-defined star on the thumb it may indicate a misfortune coming from the other sex, an unhappy marriage or, if situated on the knuckle with a good development of the mount of Jupiter, it may mean a brilliant marriage. The ordinary wrinkles on the back of the hand do not enter into the reading of the palms.

What does a line from the mount of Venus to the base of the little finger denote, crossing fate, heart and tip of head line? If this line is connected with the marriage line so that the latter appears to be running down and across to the mount of Venus it indicates a divorce and if there is an island in this line it indicates a scandal connected with the divorce. If it is not connected with the marriage line and runs to the base of the little finger it means some strong influence that changes the whole career at the age indicated on the life and fate lines.

How may I be able to tell when certain events shown on the palm are to occur by the lines which foretell them? You should study the table indicating ages both on the fate line and life lines. Any event foreshown on these lines will occur at about the age indicated according to the table in the palmistry guide. It is not possible to tell to the exact month unless one is very expert but the time can be easily approximated.



AGGERO.

Several books larger than the little COMFORT GUIDE have been published and may be obtained at any first-class book store. Cheiro's book is to be had at Brentano's in New York City and Mr. Ed Heron Allen has published a very full treatise on palmistry which can be ordered through any good book store. We do not have any of these for sale. Another asks what it means to have the head line running far down into the mount of the moon and there crossed by a voyage line. It would mean a very romantic and melancholy temperament to begin with; a drooping head line always indicates that with casuistry and a vivid imagination. A voyage line if it is clear and uncrossed by other lines affecting that line might mean that a very important voyage was to be taken which must be guessed at by the position of this voyage line on the mount of Luna.

What does it mean to have the fate line rise from the center of the line of life, extend far into the head line and from there run into branches between Jupiter and Saturn? Starting from the line of life it indicates that the luck in life will arise from personal merit rather than from outside influences. It is always a good sign for the fate line to run up to the mount of Jupiter or onto it. It means a rich and fortunate marriage and is said to be an infallible sign. With a man it would mean that the subject was very ambitious and that he would realize his ambitions and meet with great success. It is in all cases an excellent sign bringing luck, distinction and wealth.

When the line of Apollo rises from the center of the wrist, goes straight through to the head line, then divides, one line stopping at the heart line under Saturn, the other going on through the mount of Apollo, what are the indications? This would be a splendid line showing that the luck would begin early in life and follow the subject straight through life. It indicates distinction and riches. If this person goes on the stage or before the public as a singer or speaker he would become very noted, successful and wealthy. The line of Apollo could not possibly be better. The branch dividing and stopping at the heart line under Saturn, however, would mean that some affair of the heart would come at the age indicated by its departure from the fate line and that possibly its results might not be pleasant to all concerned. The fact, however, that the main line goes straight on through the mount of Apollo indicates that no serious trouble would come to the person whose hand is marked in this way.

H. C. G. asks to have a reading sent to him at once. This, as I have before stated, I do not do, but neither do I find his hands among my list.

Aggero sends two well-marked hands denoting an ambitious character and good disposition. She has an artistic temperament and is fond of music, books and pictures. Her health will be fairly good although she is nervous and will have some weaknesses attendant upon that sort of temperament. She will be quite successful especially in early life. Her health will remain good until she is at least fifty, although a sickness indicated at between the ages of fifty and sixty is marked by a square and that proves that she will have protection from it. She has good luck rising from her line of life at many points and very little poor luck attends her. There will be some obstacles between twenty-five and forty that will probably be in the nature of interferences from other people with her affairs. She will not be able to do all she would like to perhaps because of obstacles placed in her way by well meaning friends. Her fate line indicates great success. Beginning at the wrist and going straight upward in the right hand, it shows that she will have good luck in most things that she undertakes. As I said before, she will meet with some obstacles but she has perseverance and strength enough to overcome them and go right on. She will not live to a very great age, that is after sixty-five or seventy but she will accomplish much and have a happy life. There are two or three love affairs in youth but I don't think she will marry until about thirty. She will then make a happy marriage though I think she will outlive her husband. There will be, however, several engagements first. She is attractive to the opposite sex and will always have much attention. She should be careful not to marry a jealous man as her life would be made very unhappy. I see only two children in her hand. I think she will marry a dark man who will be very good to her. She will see but little trouble although her nervous temperament will cause her to exaggerate much that will befall her inevitably in this vale of woe. I don't see any signs of great wealth although she will probably be comfortable especially during the latter part of her life. If she were to go into any business whereby to earn her way I should advise her to take up music or the stage. I don't think she would be a success as a teacher but she might as a stenographer or in some office calling. She will make many friends all her life and but few enemies. The last of her life she will travel a good deal but not in early life and I don't think she will ever live very far away from home. She will be liable to brain troubles and I see one serious illness at about the age of thirty or if she escapes that at about fifty-five, which will probably incur some danger of inflammation or congestion of the brain. She needs to guard against anything of that sort. On the whole, hers is a fortunate hand and indicates a reasonably happy and comfortable life.

Digitus

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Free trial packages of a most remarkable remedy are being mailed to all who will write the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back, varicocele, or emaciation of parts can now cure themselves at home.

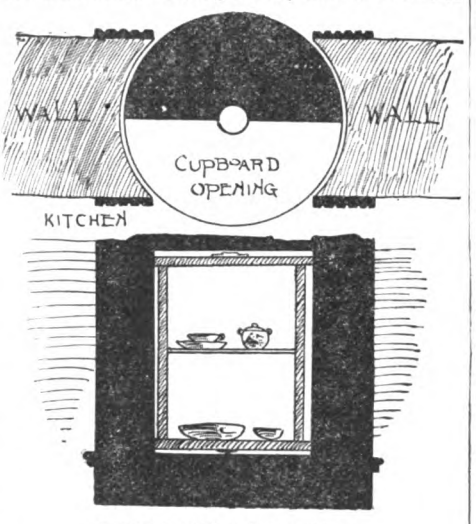
The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that come from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 730 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages will be complied with promptly. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated and the free sample will enable them to see how easy it is to be cured of sexual weakness when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample, carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.

AN IDEA FROM MOROCCO.



HERE is a description of a household contrivance in far-away Africa which, for convenience and skillfullness of design is worthy of competition with any Yankee device for the saving of labor.

In a Morocco hotel, whose stone walls are very thick, there is a long dining-room and a kitchen adjoining. Now, as the odors and sounds of the kitchen might fill the dining-room, should there be a connecting door between the two, this is omitted, and, to take its place, at least for the transference of dishes and food, there is a most ingenious device. This consists of a revolving cupboard or dumb waiter placed between the two rooms. The wall between them is about eighteen inches thick, and, by permitting the cupboard to project slightly into the room, a circle of two and a half or three feet high is secured. This is occupied by a revolving drum or cylinder four feet high and divided by two shelves. There is an opening down one side only. When this is towards the kitchen the closed side is presented to the dining-room, and as this is of



A REVOLVING CUPBOARD.

polished mahogany it has a handsome appearance. After it is filled with dishes in the kitchen a touch of the finger whirls the drum about, and the waiter in the dining-room has only to take them out and serve their contents.



BRAZIL exports black diamonds to South Africa. These diamonds are not used as jewelry, but are used underground in the mines. South Africa does not produce them, but could not well get along without them. The black diamond is the hardest substance known; the rough stones are split by machinery into cubes and then welded into mining drills for boring. Black diamonds weigh less than 100 carats. An attempt to make these stones artificially has proven a failure; the cost is greater than the market price of the Brazilian diamond.

Do You Want a $1.00 Fountain Pen for only 17 Cents?

We have it for you and will send you one only, on receipt of the above amount in stamps. Only account of the Bankruptcy of a large concern are we able to offer you this great bargain. These Fountain Pens are in a fine aluminum hexagon case all filled ready for use, and if you are supplied with one, you are never at a loss when desiring to sign your name or write an order. It is not a toy but a practical article for every man and woman, and within the reach of every school boy and girl. Try one and you will want your friends to share your pleasure with you. They are invaluable to School Teachers, Lumbermen, Boys who drive a delivery team, and Telegraph Messenger Boys. **Send 17 cents,** and we mail you one securely wrapped and guarantee satisfaction, and also give you a three months' subscription to **Comfort** with each **Pen.** Send to-day to Pen Department, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket-book. 1,500,000 boxes sold, 400,000 cases cured. Buy **NO-TO-BAC** from your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, $1, usually cures; 3 boxes, $2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

NO-TO-BAC

5000 BICYCLES



Overstock. Must be closed out **Standard '99 Models** guaranteed, $10 to $25. '98 & '97 models $8 to $15. Shopworn and second hand wheels, good machines, $3 to $10. Great Factory Clearing Sale. We ship anywhere, to any one, on approval and trial without a cent in advance.

EARN A BICYCLE by helping us advertise our superb wheels. Easy work and sure reward on our new plan. We will give one Rider Agent in each town **FREE USE** of Sample Wheel to introduce them. Write at Once for Our Special Offer.

B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago, Ill.

PROFITABLE HOME WORK.

Increase your income. Ladies earn from $10.00 to $15.00; Boys and Girls $8.00 to $10.00 weekly at home. We employ thousands, but want you to co-operate with us. Write to-day. Do not send stamp; we furnish particulars free. PARIAN MANUFACTURING CO., 20 Desbrosses St., New York.

LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you $25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address with stamp. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

CHILD LOST For 18 years. Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C, 245, Saratoga, New York.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this big 325-lb. new 1899 pattern high grade RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, $13.00 less the $1.00 sent with order, or $12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16½x18x11, top is 42x23; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamentations and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamented base. Best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you $25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least $10. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc), CHICAGO. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)



WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!



To introduce our new line of **Quadruple Plated Silverware** we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful **gold lined fluted top Quadruple Plated Silver dishes FREE** to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quadruple plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than $1.00 or $1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of eatables either on dining or side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 37c, for a year's subscription or will send both dishes, all charges paid, if you remit 62c. for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



HAIR LIKE THIS



WE WILL FORWARD ---FREE-- To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp to prepay postage. Address P. Lorrimer & Co., 334 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

Sent Free to Everybody!

The COMFORT HAMMOCK.

As a Reward for a little friendly service.

BOYS AND GIRLS:

Here's a happy hint for Summer,
And verily it is a "hummer."



We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, hand-tied, colored **Hammocks,** which for the next sixty days we shall place on the **Free List,** upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one **absolutely free.** These Hammocks are over 10 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends, and a strong cord along the entire length of sides. No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

Now to every one who will get up a club of 4 subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for with its many improvemens and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of 89 cts. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

William Isaacson,	**$3.00**
Will W. Nelson,	**2.50**
Maud B. Rodgers,	**2.00**
H. Bowen,	**1.50**
Gertrude Crockett,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

The weeks and months roll around, fast or slowly according to the joys or sorrows, cares and perplexities, or pleasures and gayeties of each one of us, and once more it is August. Not, as last year, filled with the horrors and anxieties of war. Our dear ones are not, as then, huddled in fever stricken camps under a burning sun, with insufficient and tainted food, or performing guard duty under the same hard conditions, but are most of them once more quietly at home. Only in far away Manila are our soldiers, at the time this is written, still on active duty, and a letter from one of our boys there, even though it be six months old, will, I am sure, be most welcome to the cousins. Our soldier cousin writes as follows:

"I have just finished reading the letters from the cousins in the November number of COMFORT and thinking that it may interest them I will write a short sketch of ninety-three days spent on board a United States Transport.



"On the 3d of November, 1898, we started on our long journey of ten thousand miles from San Francisco to Manila. I will not attempt to describe the agonies of seasickness suffered by most of the thousand men on board during the first few days of the voyage.

"On the 12th of November we arrived at Honolulu, where we stopped four days to take on coal. We were allowed to spend the time on shore, and those four days in one of the finest cities in the world were enjoyed by all. The houses were overgrown with vines and shaded with tropical trees, and oranges, bananas, cocoanuts, etc., were growing everywhere.

"After leaving Honolulu we sailed west. The days were hot but the deck was covered with awnings and we were allowed to wear as little clothing as possible, and to take a cool shower bath twice a day, so we did not suffer from the heat.

"Our food was sufficient for us because we got no exercise, but it lacked in variety and quality and was seldom properly cooked. It was all cooked at the galley and a detail from each company got the allowance for their company in pans, and then the men lined up and each one was given his share and might eat it wherever he chose on the deck. It was all right when the sea was still, but when it was rough more food was scattered on the deck than was eaten. Those scenes will furnish the foundation for many a soldier's story when we get home. The days were all alike to us; one company detailed for guard duty and one for fatigue duty (to clean the deck), and a daily concert by the band was our routine. We arrived in Manila Bay December 7, and packed our clothes expecting to land, but were disappointed. Most of us went ashore on the 11th and the 20th, so we saw quite a good bit of Manila. We did not like it very well.

"On the 24th we got mail and Christmas presents from home. The 26th we sailed for Iloilo in company with two other transports and two gun boats. We anchored in the channel about a mile from the city. It was nice and cool there on account of the winds, and it rained every night. We stayed there until the 29th of January, expecting every day to get orders to land and capture the city which was held by natives.

"On the 29th we started back for Manila and dropped anchor about a mile from Cavite on January 31st. We have unloaded nearly all our supplies and expect to go ashore to stay to-morrow. We all are glad to get on shore once more after living for three months on the water. Strange to say, we have no serious sickness on board, and have not had one death. Anchored near us are five of Admiral Dewey's fleet, and an English gun boat and a few freight vessels. Near shore I can see the tops of three sunken Spanish gun boats. To the north, eight miles across the bay, lies Manila. Our regiment received twenty-three sacks of mail the day we arrived here.

"I have read COMFORT for nearly eight years and always found it well worth reading."

WM. ISAACSON, Co. C. 51st Iowa Vol.

Even were there no other good accomplished by our recent war with Spain we can rejoice that it has finished the process of reuniting the bonds so rudely severed in 1861, and that now there is no longer any "North" and "South," but from Puget Sound to Florida's southernmost cape, and from Cape Cod to Cape Mendocino we are a united nation, one and indivisible. To *all* the cousins, therefore, the following letter will be most welcome.

"There lingers around the city of Montgomery, the capital of Alabama, memories which will ever remain sacred to all Southerners; for it was there the first and last chapters of the Southern Confederacy were engraved on the hearts of gifted daughters and noble sons.

"On a high eminence, at the eastern terminus of Dexter Avenue, overlooking one of the most beautiful cities in the south, is situated an old-fashioned, but stately edifice where the laws of the State of Alabama are enacted to-day. Within the walls of this same old-fashioned, peaceful-looking structure, more than a quarter of a century ago, were enacted scenes, the results of which the pages of the nation's history have not recorded on them an equal.

"On the 4th day of February, 1861, delegates from seven southern states assembled within these walls and proceeded to organize the government of the Confederate States of America. A constitution was adopted and Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, was chosen president and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, vice-president, and the seat of that government was temporarily located within the walls of the present State Capitol. Standing on the west porch of the capitol building with his face turned towards his native state, Jefferson Davis took the solemn oath of office as President of the Confederate States of America. The spot where he stood on that memorable occasion is to-day marked by a large brass star and is viewed by tourists from all climes.

"On the capitol grounds, less than a hundred yards from where Jefferson Davis stood when he took the oath of office, and just outside of the chamber where the first Confederate Congress was held, stands the representative of the last chapter of the Confederacy in the shape of a handsome monument whose summit towers up to the height of nearly one hundred feet.



ALABAMA STATE HOUSE AND CONFEDERATE MONUMENT.

"This monument is one of the most magnificent structures of the kind in the country and its erection was due to the untiring efforts of the ladies of Alabama. Its base is thirty-four feet square and consists of four blocks of stone, making as many steps. These steps lead up to four pedestals, on each of which stands a statue; an infantryman, an artilleryman, a cavalryman and a sailor. From this base rises a seventy foot circular shaft five feet in diameter. A circular base around the shaft represents marching troops. A Corinthian cap surmounts the whole, and upon this is a ten foot bronze statue representing a female figure typifying patriotism and the southern women. This figure holds in one hand a broken flag and with the other tenders to her sons a sword. The corner stone of the monument was laid by Jefferson Davis in 1886 and the monument was dedicated and formally presented to the State by the ladies of the Alabama Memorial Association on the eighth day of December, 1898.

"Thus the last chapter in the history of the Southern Confederacy was completed near the same spot where, nearly thirty-seven years before, the infant was born."

WILL W. NELSON, New Decatur, Ala.

To Naomi Kay, of De Graff, Ohio: Aunt Minerva cannot use stories of any kind.

Now for a peep at one of the beautiful bits of California scenery.

"Few of the very great throng who annually visit that most beautiful of all California spots, the Hotel Del Monte at the old city of Monterey, ever have seen or ever knew of the charming artificial lake situated among the velvety, rolling hills back of the old Spanish Capital. The lake was built some few years ago for the purpose of storing the abundance of water that flows through these undulating regions during the rainy season, and if there is ever a shortage of water during the long California summer the lake is resorted to for the use of the hotel.

"This alluring sheet of water lies in a low valley between softly sloping hills, covered with majestic pines and oaks, and where great ferns and tall wild flowers find a true home in the moist, leafy wold. The tops of the trees, unusually green here beneath the southern blue sky, have the appearance of rich green velvet, so thick and glossy are their masses of needles, while the wild ivy and clematis twine about the tree trunks, festoon themselves among the spreading branches and during the early spring months fill the soft air with sweetest fragrance. Among the trees occasional deer appear but at the faintest foreign sound spring in quick, light bounds through the high masses of ferns and low shrubbery and vanish within the depth of green.

"In the early morning or at the close of day the shadows of these bosky woods are reflected far across the smooth surface of the lake and add to its wild, alluring beauty. The lake then has the appearance of a glistening mirror painted by an artist capable of reproducing the most perfect of forest scenes. To a stranger the utter silence of this region is hard to be understood; so still is it that a twig snapped by a visitor sounds far across the wooded slopes and echoes in the occasional clearings. A fire kindled here of the fallen pines burns too with no sound other than that made by the flames for this wood neither snaps nor crackles.

"There is no road through the wooded uplands leading to this lake, just the narrow pathway winding through the trees and which is so little used that grass grows greenly over it. But the road which takes one to the starting of this pathway is the famous seventeen mile drive which leading on in the opposite direction from the lake path, carries one into a throng of fashionable people, glittering equipages and bewildering saddle horses; for here the social world which crowds upon the Del Monte takes its daily outing close upon the borders of the stilly woods with their tranquil and almost unvisited lake."

MAUD B. RODGERS, Menlo Park, California.

A. J. Nightingale, of Elyria, Kansas, must read the directions at the head of this department for the answer to his question.

Mrs. E. Snyder, of Slaght's, Colorado, will be perfectly correct if she sends subscriptions as she suggests.

The following letter seems particularly appropriate to this hot and dusty month.

"Some years ago I had the pleasure as well as the misfortune of traveling over southwestern Kansas. I say misfortune, because the time of which I write was during the most severe drought ever known to the settlers of that arid region. Crops of every kind were a total failure, and by mid-summer the vast prairies were sere and brown.

"One day in the latter part of July my course led me over a long stretch of desolate country, made all the more desolate, if possible, by an occasional claim 'soddy' from which all signs of life and hope had fled. At last, becoming tired of my lonely journey, and the hot southwest wind which had been beating upon my back for hours, I touched my horse lightly with the whip.

"It was now past four o'clock, and I was beginning to be a little concerned about a stopping place for the night. Suddenly my attention was caught by a strange and beautiful sight. Off a little to the left, extending in an easterly direction and reaching far into the dim distance lay a valley in which all vegetation appeared to be green and growing. I rode on and on, scarcely believing my eyes, so marvelous seemed such a landscape in the midst of all this devastation. At length I found myself at the head of the valley—a veritable paradise nestled amid scorched and treeless plains, which did not vanish at my approach, as I half feared it would. Soon after descending the gentle slope that led into the valley the welcome sound of falling water caused me to pause and look around. A few yards south of the road and in the inviting shadow of a clump of locust trees, I spied a flowing well and hastened to the cool retreat. The water poured from an iron pipe into a small reservoir, from whence it ran rippling away beneath a long row of beautiful trees by the road side. The water was as pure and refreshing as it looked, and my horse drank his fill and then reluctantly left the tender grass that grew along the little stream.

"My way from the well was through pleasant lanes on either side of which were rich fields and green meadows, also beautiful homes with orchards and vines clustered about them. Here and there were bits of woodland interspersed with miniature lakes. Not far from one of these lakes, at a pretty cottage, I stopped and was met with hospitality of the true Southern type. I spent the next day in Artesian Valley and found the inhabitants generally as delightful as their abiding place. This valley is situated in the northeastern part of Meade Co., Kansas. It contains a score or more fine, fertile farms and is chiefly watered by artesian wells, from which it takes its name."

H. BOWEN, Arkansas City, Kansas.

The next letter contains another interesting bit of Cuban War history which I am sure my readers will welcome.

"Montgomery County in southwestern Iowa, received its name in honor of General Richard Montgomery of Revolutionary fame, who fell in the assault on Quebec, December 31, 1775. Red Oak is its county seat. Red Oak got its name from the fact that a part of the town plat was at one time covered with a growth of the red oak. This city is noted for its many beautiful and costly residences. Its moral atmosphere is of the best, no saloon having existed in its borders, or even in its county for years. Red Oak is a picturesque place as it nestles on the hillside and on the bottom of the Nishnabotna river. It is said the Indians named it Nishnabotna, meaning it was so large a stream it had to be crossed in a canoe.

"Red Oak was the birthplace and the home of the loved Lieut. Darwin Merritt, who lost his life on the ill-fated Maine, and whose body has never been recovered from its watery grave in Havana Harbor. Had it not been for his kind disposition he might have saved himself, but he stopped to lend a helping hand to a fellow soldier, thereby saving him but losing his own life. Red Oak truly mourned his death and many a soldier went forth to avenge it. Among the rest two of Darwin's brothers, who are now at Manila. Lieut. Merritt's mother passed to the other shore many years ago, but his father, the Rev. W. W. Merritt, still lives at Red Oak. Lieut. Merritt was educated at the United States Naval School, where he graduated with high honors. He was loved and respected by all and to be his friend was indeed an honor."

ISADOR CLARK, Elliot, Iowa.

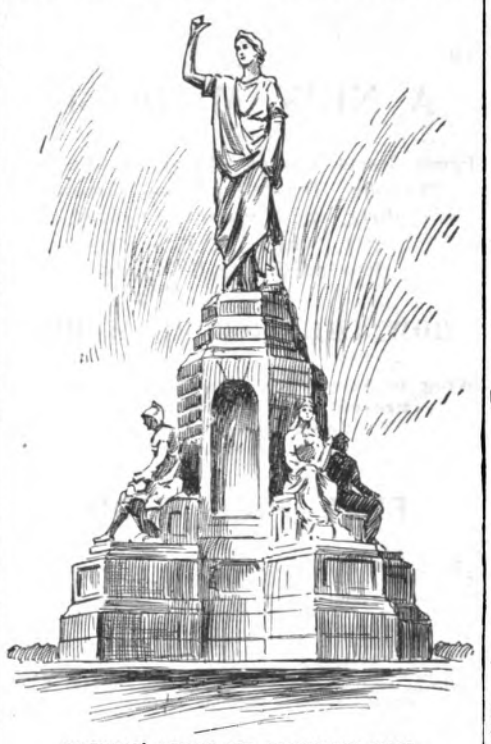
Oh, dear, dear! Why will my nephews and nieces persist in sending me articles which I cannot use! I hate to refuse them, you know I do, but I cannot use *poems* or *stories* or *compiled articles*, and here this month are two stories, three poems, and two compiled articles, all of which I must throw in the waste basket. Now if these same people would only send me a description and a picture of the old French Market in New Orleans (if they have been there) or of the work of a cotton or wool mill, or of the building or launching of a ship which they have witnessed, or of the making of a coffee pot, even, if they have some knowledge of the process, I would be *so* glad to get them.

This next letter, for instance, is just what I want, for this cousin has been in Plymouth, and knows of what she writes.

"DEAR AUNT MINERVA:

"Some time since one of the cousins wrote you a letter about Plymouth. While many things of interest were described in that letter, many others were omitted, and I would like to have the cousins who live at too great a distance to visit this lovely town of such great historic interest to every American, know of some of the other points of interest.

"In addition to being situated on a large bay of the ocean, it has fresh water facilities, having no less than three hundred and sixty-five ponds, some large enough to be called lakes. Pilgrim Hall



PILGRIMS' MONUMENT, PLYMOUTH, MASS.

is dedicated to the Pilgrims and has a fine collection of antiques in the shape of old furniture, oil paintings, shoes worn by Governor Bradford when a child, and a carved armchair of his. The Pilgrim Monument is one of the handsomest monuments in America. It stands upon an eminence in Monument Park, a tract of nine acres of land. It was presented by Oliver Ames, of Easton, Mass., and cost $30,000. The pedestal has four wings on which are figures representing Morality, Law, Freedom and Education, and above these is the statue of Faith, thirty-six feet in height, or six times life size. This is the greatest granite figure in the world. The whole height of the monument is eighty-one feet. It was completed and dedicated in 1889, and commemorates the Pilgrims and bears the following inscription: 'National monument to the forefathers, erected by a grateful people in remembrance of their labors, sacrifices and sufferings for the cause of civil and religious liberty.'"

GERTRUDE CROCKETT, Plymouth, Mass.

Our next letter was written by a page in the Texas Legislature, so we may be sure that he knows whereof he speaks when his subject is the Texas State House. He says:

"As I am a page in the twenty-sixth Legislature of Texas and a reader of COMFORT I take the liberty of sending you the following description of our beautiful State House.

"The Texas State House is the largest Capitol in the United States with the exception of the National Capitol in Washington, D. C. It is built of stone and granite, its exterior walls being of red granite. In shape it is a Greek cross, having a rotunda and dome at the intersection of the arms of the cross. It measures five hundred and sixty-five feet in length by two hundred and eighty-seven in width. Its height to the apex of the dome is three hundred and thirteen feet, being six feet higher than the dome of the National Capitol. It cost the State three million acres of land and $650,000.

"The massive building is heated by steam and lighted by electricity, for the production of which it has a special plant, owned and operated by the State. Its eight hundred lights are very artistically arranged, some in the form of stars—emblem of



TEXAS STATE HOUSE.

the State—and others form the word Texas. Beautiful paintings adorn the interior walls of the building, and fountains of water supplied by an artesian well are scattered here and there in convenient spots.

"The present Legislative body is composed of young men, seventy-five per cent. of whom are under thirty-three years of age."

ALBERT C. ADAMS, Austin, Texas.

Thanks to Miss Winnie Mullen and Miss Madeline Miller of New Orleans, La.; Archie E. McKinley of Borden, Indiana; J. A. Walker of York, Nebraska; Marie Pearl Luckett of Dresden, Mo., for letters and articles received.

Now we must end our session, and when we meet again in September vacations will be over and the serious business of life will again demand our attention. Till then farewell.

AUNT MINERVA.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for **FREE, $2.00** trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 E Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Eight Page Music 2 1-2 Cents Each.

Many of the pieces of full page sheet music advertised under our great music offer consist of eight full pages printed on heavy white paper and have colored covers. You can get ten pieces of music for 25 cents. Read COMFORT'S music offer.

$7 PAID Per 100 and Expenses for distributing samples of ammonia. Send 6c stamps for terr. A. W. SCOTT, Coboes, N.Y. 10 million circulars for dist. in cities and towns. **ALSO**

$15 a 1000 Cash for **Used Stamps.** Send 10c. for Stamp Guide with prices. BOX C, 223, Rose, N. Y.

COE'S ECZEMA CURE Large sample mailed free. COE CHEM. Co., Cleveland, O.

LOOK. A Pipe that cannot be told from a cigar. Sample by mail 6 cts. N. E. PIPE CO., Stamford, Ct.

SAVE ONE-HALF YOUR FUEL. Write for book and agency. Rochester Radiator Co., Rochester, N. Y.

MONEY to patent good ideas may be secured by our aid. THE PATENT RECORD, Baltimore, Md.

CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST 50 cents a year. Sample copy free on application.

MRS. DeMORT, Box OZ, Toledo, O., sends valuable toilet recipes to ladies **FREE**

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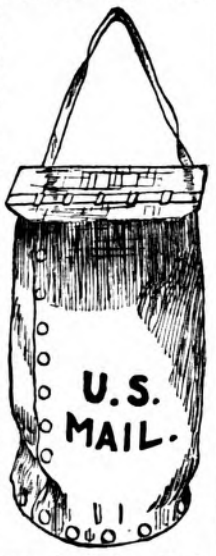
THE United States mail bag, here illustrated, is, as nearly as possible, a fac simile of the mail bag used by Uncle Sam—and is intended to be hung from a woman's writing desk, to hold letters that have not been answered. It is made of tan colored canvas, and the circular bottom piece measures four inches across. The bag part is cut wide enough to fit tightly around this circular piece, and is eight inches long. It is fastened together up the side in front, and also to the circular bottom, by means of brass split tacks. A cover is made of the canvas over a piece of pasteboard, which measures five by three inches. A narrow satin ribbon is attached to the back of the bag just below where the cover is attached, for hanging it up.

Nothing gives a more attractive touch to a bedroom than pretty pieces of handiwork. The dressing table is especially adapted to the display of such work, and a well equipped dressing table gives a distinctive touch to the entire room.

Glove and handkerchief boxes are not only a great convenience, but as now made they are very ornamental. A very dainty box may be made from satin ribbon and linen, using any color of ribbon that harmonizes with the room. To fashion the handkerchief box cut five pieces of cardboard, one six inches square, the other four each three by six inches. Cover one side of each piece with white linen and the other side with white quilted satin. Baste these covers firmly in place and then bind each piece with satin ribbon of the chosen color, letting it lap equally upon both sides. The square piece forms the bottom of the box and the four oblong pieces the cover. For the side, which is only a satin puff, take one and one-half yards of satin ribbon of the same shade as the binding, and four inches in width, gather both edges and join the ends in a neat seam. Divide the ribbon into four equal lengths or sections so the fullness shall be equal on all sides, and then overhand one edge of the ribbon to the square piece of covered cardboard. Overhand each section of the upper edge to one of the oblong pieces already covered, sewing to one of the long edges. These form the cover, and box is closed by folding over two opposite sections and then the two remaining sections. Fasten a ribbon like that used for binding upon two opposite sides where the wide ribbon is sewed to the cardboard, a full bow with several loops and ends on one ribbon, and fasten the end of the opposite ribbon beneath the bow by means of a hook and eye. This saves untying the bow each time and consequently keeps it fresh much longer. If you wish to have your box especially pretty, embroider two of the oblong linen covers in the shades of Asiatic filo harmonizing with the color of the ribbon before putting them on the cardboard. The design may be very simple, a small spray of flowers, or a dainty conventional pattern. These embroidered pieces are of course to be folded over last, forming the top of the cover. If you choose, satchet powder may be placed beneath the quilted satin lining of the box, and a thin layer of white cotton wadding placed upon both sides of the cardboard before the linen and satin covers are put on improves the appearance, giving a softer effect.

The glove box is made in the same fashion, but is made six by twelve inches in size. This is the dimension for the bottom cardboard; two of the top pieces will be three by twelve inches, the other two will be six inches square. The long narrow sections should form the outer lids, and the ribbon for fastening will be placed in the middle of the long sides.

These boxes when finished are very dainty indeed, and afford protection from dust while keeping the articles in much better order than can be done in a drawer where there is more danger of mussing from contact with other belongings.



The newest pincushions are made long and narrow, and are stuffed very full. We illustrated one of these long cushions, recently. The edge is finished with a full ruffle or with a cord. The handsomest of these are covered with white satin embroidered in delicate shades of Asiatic filo and the edge has a double ruffle, the under one of silk with the edges pinked, and of the color used in the embroidery of the cover, and the upper ruffle of a filmy lace. Most of these cushions are cut five inches wide and from fourteen to eighteen inches long. The eighteen inch length is extreme, however. Another cover which is liked very much is of sheer linen embroidered, and put on over a delicate color. This same color is then used for the under ruffle, and the upper ruffle is made of the linen hemstitched or featherstitched.

When a less elaborate cushion is wanted the same shaped foundation may be used and covered plain with a color. A shaped linen cover may be embroidered, having pointed ends, and lace may be gathered simply across these ends of the linen, with a cord finish where the under and upper sections of the cushion cover join. Sometimes the lace is put across one end of the linen cover only, and a bow of ribbon is secured at the other end. Any dainty pretty style of finish may be chosen to suit the fancy, and to conform to the new shape.

Round cushions are also pretty, and these may be finished with a full ruffle where the seams join. Such cushions if stuffed full set up high, and the lower edge of ruffle should just reach the dresser and thus cover the lower half of the cushion. The top may be finished with embroidery or with a tiny lace cover. If one makes Battenburg lace then that can be used with good effect.



The round cushion here illustrated measures three inches across, and is made of pink silk, with a row of pink and green rosettes around the edge. This cushion is intended to be hung from the side of the mirror, where it is a great convenience, particularly on a gentleman's chiffonier, being out of the way, and yet just where it is the most handy.

A square cushion foundation may be quite altered in appearance by finishing with a double ruffle which is brought from the middle of one side, up over the corner to the middle of the next side, and so on. This makes a very pretty shape. The covers most favored for any shaped cushion are satin or linen embroidered, or lace.

The lattice-work jacket has come to stay—for it is so pretty and such a convenience that it will not quickly run itself out. The one here shown is taken from one made of white muslin, barred off with narrow black velvet ribbon. When the bright young woman who built it is through with it in connection with the white



LATTICE-WORK JACKET.

muslin gown with which she wears it this summer, she intends to cut out all the muslin between the velvet strips and so leave it simply an open-work jacket, of velvet, to be worn over fancy silk waists of light colors, during the winter. Thus if she has two or three perfectly plain china silk waists, in pink, blue and lavender, she can wear this little jacket over them all, and so have quite a variety—though care should be used not to appear too often in it, or where she is likely to meet the same people.

A NEW MICROBE.

From Paris Comes Word of the New Microbe Discovered by Doctor Fahrig, the Eminent Bacteriologist, which, it Has Been Proved, Causes Baldness.

HOW THE MICROBE WORKS

What is Needed to Stop Its Ravages and Prevent Our Descendants from Being a Race of Bald Heads.

FREE HAIR FOOD.

Dr. E. Fahrig, the eminent professor of chemistry and doctor of science of Paris, has made public the nature of his latest discoveries in regard to fibre, human hair and the microbe which causes dandruff, falling hair, gray hair and baldness.

His discovery will revolutionize the treatment of all hair diseases.

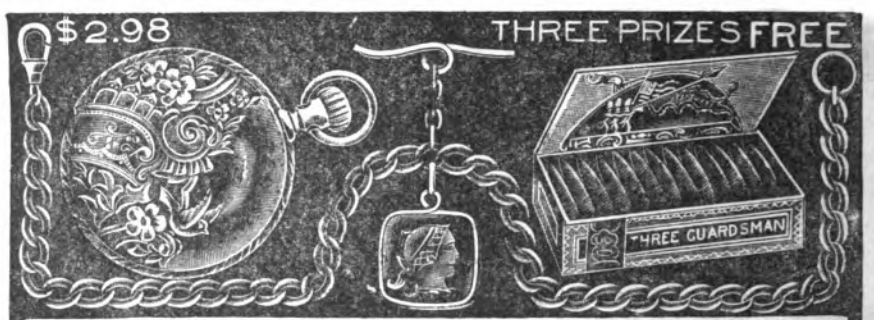
In his treatise lately published he describes his experiments as to the contagious properties of dandruff, as caused by the transferring of the microbe from one person to another, and also explains how the microbe can be destroyed by proper germicidal and microbicidal applications.

This treatment, as Dr. Fahrig makes clear, by destroying the microbe also cures the disease of which it is the cause and therefore gives permanent relief from dandruff and falling hair, and prevents premature gray hair and baldness even up to extreme old age.

Those of our readers who wish to test it should send their name and address at once to the Cranitonic Hair Food Co., 526 West Broadway, New York City, mentioning COMFORT, when a free bottle will be sent them direct by mail prepaid. When writing be sure to state age and present condition of hair and scalp.

HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8 cents. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRENE DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



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The whole lot sent C. O. D. with privilege of examination, express all paid. If satisfactory pay express agent $2.98 our introductory price. This offer costs money but it should bring us 100,000 new customers. Try it, you can make money selling our goods. W. HILL MERCHANDISE CO., B.C -96 STATE ST., CHICAGO.

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Please mention COMFORT when you write.

ADELINA PATTI.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.)

out Patti's beauty better than she. Patti is very fond of the toilet and it is an elaborate affair, for she daily retires from observation about five and until half-past six cannot be seen even by her most intimate friends. It is during this seclusion that her toilet is made, and the greater part is devoted to the arrangement of her hair which has always been her crowning beauty. Every person who has seen Patti remembers the irresistible attraction of her oval face and the arrangement of the tendrils of hair on the cheek and forehead. This Mexican maid spends hours with brush and comb arranging the hair, but the final touches are by Patti's own fingers and those picturesque little curls are of her own twining.

There is no doubt that the most elaborate and complete collection of stage costumes owned by any one person in the world is at this castle. Patti has never given away or sold a single one of the many costumes in which she has appeared in public and these with their appropriate belongings, or as the theatrical people would say properties, are kept in order and packed in chests and wardrobes in her home. Each costume is complete in itself and has every article, with the exception of the jewels, which appeared with it when the performance in which it was a part took place.

She is an excellent correspondent, receiving many letters each day and on all subjects. Stage-struck girls, impecunious widows, young children, and even elderly men constantly write to her asking advice or other attentions; while many people flood her with begging letters of all descriptions. To everything possible she returns a good-humored reply never showing any disturbance or unkindness, no matter what the request may be. Strange as it may seem, after the many years of public life that she has lead, Madame Patti is still a victim of stage fright and declares that the sight of advertisements containing her name makes her nervous and depressed and lacking in confidence, a feeling which even her greatest successes have never entirely eradicated from her mind.

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10c. This is a fine SOLID GOLD plated initial ring, enameled in black around the initial and is fully worth $1.00. We shall give away 5,000 of these to advertise our business. Send 10 cents to pay postage and packing. *Send size.* CURTIN JEWELRY CO., Attleboro, Mass.



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OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, $2.25; 3½-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, $3.25. WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,

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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE stocking of the preserve closet is the special work of the prudent housewife, at this season, and this isn't such a task as it sounds, as the berries come in turn, so that usually one may do her strawberries, then her raspberries, then her currants and other berries and by this time it is the season for plums, peaches, pears and jellies. Then come the pickles. Really, nature has made it very easy for us, in stringing things along and so allowing us to get one thing well out of the way before entering upon the next.

Perhaps it would be as well to give a good, reliable recipe for preserving these various fruits—even though we have given some of the recipes before in these columns—for new readers must be thought of, also the carelessness of old ones, who forget to save the recipes from back numbers.

STRAWBERRY PRESERVES.

Pick over, wash, drain and hull strawberries; then weigh. Fill jars with berries. Make a syrup by boiling three-fourths the weight of the berries in sugar, allowing a cup of water to each pound of sugar. As soon as syrup reaches boiling point, skim, and add it to the berries in the jars, so that the jars overflow; let stand fifteen minutes when fruit will have shrunk, and more must be added to fill the jars. Screw on covers, put in a kettle of cold water, heat to the boiling point and keep just below boiling one hour.

RASPBERRY PRESERVES.

Raspberries may be preserved in the same way as strawberries—or, if a thin juice instead of a syrup is desired, simply fill the jars with alternate layers of berries and sugar—let stand in cold water on the stove until water has reached boiling point; then fill jars with boiling water (for the fruit has shrunk and the sugar melted) and screw on tops. The next day have some one who is strong go over all the jars and screw tops on as securely as possible.



GIVING POINTS TO A FRIEND.

SPICED CURRANTS.

Pick over seven pounds currants, wash, drain and remove stems. Put in a preserving kettle, add five pounds brown sugar and one pint vinegar. Into a muslin bag, loosely, allowing plenty of room, put three tablespoons cinnamon and the same amount of ground cloves. Heat to the boiling point and then let cook slowly an hour and a half. Put up in preserving jars.

SWEET PICKLED PEACHES.

Boil two pounds brown sugar, one pint vinegar and one ounce stick cinnamon twenty minutes. Dip one-half peck peaches, individually, into hot water and rub off the fur with a towel. Stick each peach with four cloves. Put into the syrup and boil until soft, using one-half the peaches at a time.

Pears may be pickled in the same way as above.

To preserve Damson plums, follow recipe given for strawberries, for the syrup. Add the plums, which have previously been wiped and each plum pricked three or four times with a large needle. Cook until soft. It is well to use two kettles, and to divide the syrup and plums and so not only accelerate the work, but also keep the plums in good shape by not crowding them into one kettle.

CANNED HUCKLEBERRIES.

Pick over and wash the berries and then put in a preserving kettle with a small quantity of water. Cook until berries are soft, and then put into jars. No sugar is required, but a sprinkling of salt is an addition.

TUTTI FRUITTI.

Put one pint of brandy into a stone jar and add the various fruits as they come along; to each quart of fruit add the same quantity of sugar, and stir the mixture each morning until all the fruit has been added. Raspberries, strawberries, peaches, cherries and pineapples are the best to use. This mixture is supposed to be used for punch—being added to an ordinary lemonade—when it gives the exquisite flavor of all these fruits combined.

GRAPE WINE.

To each gallon of grapes, allow one gallon of water; bruise the grapes in the water and let them stand for a week without stirring, then draw off and strain. To each gallon of liquid add three pounds of sugar and pour all into a cask; leave cask open until wine has done hissing—then seal up.

ELDERBLOW WINE.

Use only the blows for this, and there should be a quart measure full, packed down solid. Into a five gallon crock put nine pounds of granulated sugar, and pour over it three gallons boiling water. Add the blows, and when cool add one yeast cake which has previously been dissolved in a little lukewarm water. Cover the crock and each day for a week stir the mixture. At the end of that time, strain, add three pounds of raisins which have been washed and snipped with scissors and then put crock in the cellar to stand for six weeks—being stirred once a week, meanwhile. At the end of the six weeks, strain again, add one pint best whiskey and bottle—putting one raisin into each bottle.

CHILI SAUCE.

Peel twelve medium sized ripe tomatoes and slice. Put in a preserving kettle with one pepper finely chopped, one onion ditto, two cups vinegar, three tablespoons sugar, one tablespoon salt, two teaspoons clove, the same of cinnamon, allspice and grated nutmeg. Heat gradually to boiling point and cook slowly for two and one-half hours.

UNRIPE CUCUMBER PICKLES.

Wipe four quarts small cucumbers. Put in a stone jar and add one cup salt dissolved in two quarts boiling water and let stand three days. Drain cucumbers from brine, heat brine to boiling point, pour over cucumbers and again let stand three days; repeat. Drain, wipe cucumbers, and pour over one gallon boiling water in which one tablespoon alum has been dissolved. Let stand six hours, then drain from alum water. Cook cucumbers ten minutes, a few at a time, in one-fourth the following mixture heated to the boiling point and boiled ten minutes: one gallon vinegar, four red peppers, two sticks cinnamon, two tablespoons allspice berries and two tablespoons cloves. Strain remaining liquor over pickles which have been put in a stone jar.

RIPE CUCUMBER PICKLES.

Cut cucumbers in halves lengthwise, and then into smaller pieces if the cucumbers are of largo size. Cover with alum water, allowing two teaspoons powdered alum to each quart of water. Heat gradually to boiling point, then let stand on back of range two hours. Remove from alum water and chill in ice water. Make a syrup by boiling five minutes two pounds of sugar, one pint vinegar and two tablespoons each of whole cloves and stick cinnamon tied in a piece of muslin. Add cucumbers and cook ten minutes. Remove cucumbers to a stone jar and pour over syrup. Scald syrup three successive mornings and return to cucumbers.

The odors of plants exist in different parts of them—sometimes in the wood, as in the cedar and sandal wood; sometimes in the leaves as in patchouly and thyme; and in the seeds as in caraway; in the roots as in orris, and in the bark, as in cinnamon. The orange has three odors—the flowers, the leaves and the rind.

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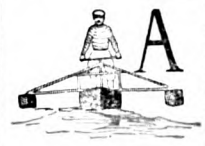
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When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

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FOR nearly nineteen years a cat has been owned by a Mr. Majors of Chicago, and during that time the amount expended upon him aggregates over $2000. His master thinks he is the wisest and best cat in town, and he has spared no expense in giving "Tom Majors" everything he wanted. He is very fond of turkey, and has had it at all seasons, no matter how expensive it is.



AN English invention known as a water cycle has a feature that belongs entirely to itself. This is a propeller which is an exact copy of the Indian canoe paddle. It is fastened to the water cycle in such a manner that it can be driven at high speed by foot power applied to pedals as in the bicycle. The boat is made for two persons, and can be driven in smooth water at the rate of twelve miles an hour, easily.

BEAUTIFUL PIECES FOR PATCH WORK.

Huge large squares such as our grandmothers used in a thousand ways for patchwork. We give away to any one who will send six cents for one package of these great squares. This is to introduce our mammoth illustrated catalogue into new homes where bargains are wanted and to obtain your address to send future favors to. Be sure to get one or more of these packages, we will send to your friend for an additional six cents. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Me.

The word news is said to have been derived from the initial letters of the cardinal points of the compass: North, East, West, South.

PLEASE TRY **Cascarets** CANDY CATHARTIC REGULATE THE LIVER

10c. 25c. 50c. All Druggists. 806.

COMBINATION DIPPER. Seven useful articles in one. Samples FREE, prepaid, to AGENTS. Other articles new and catchy. Write, postal will do. RUNDELL MFY., CORNING, N. Y.

TRIAL TREATMENT FREE!!

To Sufferers from Kidney and Bladder Diseases, this is a Wonderful Offer. The Only Known Complete Cure sent to the Afflicted Free of Charge.

If you suffer from any chronic kidney or bladder disease, Bright's disease, diabetes, dropsy, inflammation of the membranes, stricture, urethral inflammation, rheumatism, torpid liver, and in fact any disease occasioned by disorders of these important organs, and will send me your address at once, I will mail you absolutely FREE OF CHARGE a package of Dr. Boies' Specific, which is a standard medicine and sovereign cure for these diseases in every form and phase.



It is the product of the greatest of specialists in these complaints and has been used for years with most marvelous success. You should avail yourself at once of this splendid offer, for it costs you nothing and may save your life. There is no C. O. D. catch or fraud about it, the medicine is sent you free. Thousands of testimonials from men and women of all ages.

DR. D. A. WILLIAMS, East Hampton, Conn.

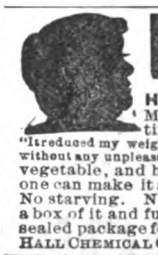
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Initial Stick Pins.



New ideas in stick pins make them more popular than ever, we have just secured **a novelty** in these pearl and gold plated initial stick pins. It is a glad hand that holds the pure white pearl heart with the gilt initial securely fastened to it. The effect of the combination is very beautiful and we know after you once get one that many others who see them will order at once. These are really a 25c. article, but to introduce we will send samples, any initial desired, free to all who send us 10c. for a trial six months' subscription to **Sunshine,** the monthly that is needed in every home. If you want three stick pins all one initial or different send us 25c. for a year's subscription and get three of these popular stick pins, they are for Gents' or Ladies' use. Address

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



FAT

How to Reduce it

Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "I reduced my weight 21 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL Co. B Box St. Louis, Mo.

HUMANITY'S BENEFACTOR.

Thousands Who Were Afflicted Raise Their Voice in Gratitude to this Wonderful Man.

Prof. Weltmer, of Nevada, Mo., is doing more for the afflicted than any man known to history. He is the direct cause for placing Magnetic Healing on a scientific basis, it is conceded that his physological explanations are the only logical ones, scientists therefore term his method Weltmerism. His absent treatment, which dispels all disease at a distance just as readily as those brought to Nevada, has effected such marvelous cures that some claim it to be supernatural, others that there must be a divine force existing in the Professor, different from others. From the mere fact that Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and his students are just as efficient as himself, disproves this belief. Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer. Mrs. Jennie L. Linch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles. In less than 30 days she was cured by the Absent Method. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered severely with female trouble and eczema, and was entirely restored by Prof. Weltmer in a month without ever seeing her. In like manner thousands have been restored. Lost vitality and kindred ailments positively cured. By writing Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., you will receive free the Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated magazine, and a long list of the most remarkable cures ever performed.



PROF. WELTMER.

TEACHES HIS ART TO OTHERS. Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making $10.00 to $50.00 per day. Taught by mail or personal instructions. For full instructions write to The American School of Magnetic Healing, Nevada, Mo.

SEND ONE DOLLAR

CUT THIS AD OUT and send to us, and if you live within 700 miles of Chicago, we will send you this TOP BUGGY by freight C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY, EXACTLY AS REPRESENTED, EQUAL TO BUGGIES THAT RETAIL AT $60.00 to $75.00 and the GRANDEST BARGAIN YOU EVER SAW, pay the freight agent OUR SPECIAL PRICE, $38.90 and freight charges, less the $1.00 sent with order.



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WE MAKE THIS TOP BUGGY IN OUR OWN FACTORY IN CHICAGO, from better material than most makers put in $75.00 buggies. Latest style for 1899. Body, 24×54 from the Best Seasoned Wood. Gear, Best that Money can Build. End Springs, as illustrated, or Brewster Side Bar. Wheels, High Grade Screwed Rim Sarven's Patent. Top, 24 ounce, Daily Rubber, Heavily lined, full side and back curtains. Painting, guaranteed equal to any $150.00 buggy work. Body black; Gear, dark green or Red. Upholstering, heavy green French body cloth or Evan's Leather. $38.90 IS OUR SPECIAL PRICE for top buggy complete, wide or narrow track, full length side and back curtains, storm apron, carpet, wrench, anti-rattlers and shafts. GUARANTEED TWO YEARS, will last a lifetime. For Buggies at $15.95 and up, WRITE FOR FREE BUGGY CATALOGUE. YOU CAN MAKE $500.00 This Year Selling OUR $38.90 BUGGIES. ORDER ONE TODAY, YOU CAN SELL IT FOR $60.00. DON'T DELAY. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO.

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AGENTS: We give every man or woman a Solid Gold-laid Solitaire Bolivian Carbon Diamond Gem Ring, which we will buy back for $5.00 if not as represented. It is solid gold pattern and unsurpassed for beauty, brilliancy and durability. We give it free for disposing of 20 cases of Perfumery among your friends at 5 cents a case. Simply send name and address and we will mail perfumery postpaid on consignment. When sold send money and we will mail ring which few can tell from genuine $75 diamond, or keep half the cash. We take perfumery back if you cannot sell. Address: P. P. CO., P. O. Box 180, New York.

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THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY.

For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin.

For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.



A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!

Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.



No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph** of **medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. **FREE.** This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Here is a warm greeting to you all, my dears, but I feel sure that you would rather I treated you coldly, at least, until after the summer sun has set. I hope you have come comfortably through half of the summer and that August and its "dog days" won't have any bad effect upon you. At first I was going off for a vacation, but I think I would prefer to stay and talk to my cousins, so here I am talking as usual.

The first in the list is from Anxious Inquirer of Des Moines, Ia., who has been reading Mrs. Julia McNair's book on the home and wants something more recent. Evidently this cousin is contemplating matrimony, and if she will write to the publishers of the book they will no doubt tell her where she may learn all about how to make her nest the prettiest.

Triplets, North Loup, Neb.—A man should not put his arm around a girl until or unless he is engaged to her. I think I have said this a thousand times.

M. M. K., Steel, Ohio.—Cousin Marion's address is care of COMFORT, Augusta, Me., and she does not answer letters personally unless there are imperative reasons why she should.

Mabel, Indianola, Ia., who is fifteen years old asks me several questions about beaus and she spells her own name, Mable. Dear, dear, it isn't beaus you need so much as a spelling book.

Anet, Portland, Ore.—It isn't the young man's fault that his parentage is clouded, and if you love him, marry him. That is the sentimental side of your question. On the practical, every day, living side, it is hardly fair to the children who may come of such a marriage. (2) It will be quite right to send the excursion ticket to your fourth cousin. (3) Astrologers don't know any more about your future than you do. (4) A girl of sixteen or seventeen may wear her hair down if she is small and girlish looking.

Josephine, Natchitoches, La.—A good rule in the marriage question is: When in doubt, don't. Wait for the one you love if he wants you to.

Bashful Fifteen, Dorchester, Ia.—There is no cure for bashfulness except time and a constant effort to think about something else except yourself. (2) Don't use glycerine or anything else on your eyes until you have asked your druggist or physician about it. (3) Proper care in eating and drinking will reduce and may remove redness of the nose. However, it is a disease in some cases, and requires the direction of a physician. Consult one.

Geraldine, Little Sandusky, Ohio.—It is courteous for both the lady and gentleman to thank each other in a friendly way for ordinary social attentions.

Carmen, Trenton, N. J.—The young man, who comes to see you once in several weeks, says he is going to marry you and goes to see other girls, is so very thin a fraud that a girl of ordinary judgment ought to see through him at once. Drop him. The other young man who has been calling for a year and says nothing about love or marriage isn't thinking about you in that connection, and you should not think of him so. If he wants you he will make signs enough.

Blue Bell, Melrose, Minn.—A girl of seventeen may have as a friend a man of twenty-five and accept courtesies from him and she may give him flowers from her garden, but why should there be any kissing? It depends upon your acquaintance and relations to each other whether or not you should be Mr. and Miss to each other.

Daisy Belle, Lakewood, N. J.—Girls of fifteen should think about something more necessary to their future usefulness as women than beaus.

Miss D., Toronto, Can.—My dear, how can I tell you what the young man thinks of you if he doesn't tell you himself? Ask him. (2) It is the custom for young women who meet men in a business way to speak to them outside of their business places when the acquaintance has continued for sometime. Do not presume however, upon an office acquaintance to speak to a man outside, until you are sure it will be agreeable. Some men are very silly.

Dell, Rosewell, N. M.—The young man should simply ask the lady if he can accompany her home from church. That's all there is to be said. (2) A note asking the same favor, to or from, should be written as if the question were being asked. It is too simple to give a set form for.

Violet, Glasgow, Mo.—Young people wear each other's rings and I suppose there is no harm in it. It is a matter of taste. (2) Let the man take his own hat in church. (3) Four leaf clover is good luck. Where have you been that you hadn't learned this before? (4) Two young men may call on a girl in the afternoon. The more, the merrier. (5) No.

Lily Dale, Dayton, Ohio.—The flesh on the body can not be reduced leaving the face plump.

Idle Girl, Evart, Texas.—The man is indifferent and does not care a rap of his finger for you, and if you are sensible you will forget him. You ought to know that he is fooling you.

A. W., New Hartford, Ia.—If you do not care to marry it is very well not to have a "steady fellow." Otherwise you had better settle down to one, or permit him to settle down to you.

Callie, Malvern, Ark.—Don't run away and get married in the Court House by a Justice of the Peace. Get married at home by the preacher.

Betta, Guthrie, Oklahoma.—Wait five years for the young man who "blushes and smiles so sweet" and by that time you will be old enough to know what to do, and possibly how much you are loving quite a different fellow.

Purple Violet, Mayfield, Cal.—It is quite right for you to wear a corset and if you select the proper shape it will improve your figure and remove the annoyance you mention.

Grover, Klondike, Ia.—Early engagements are not advisable. A woman should not marry before she is twenty-five, and a man should be at least thirty. (2) Do not write to the young man and forget him.

Penelapia Folsom is an Indian cousin fourteen years old, living in the Indian Territory who wants some of the cousins to write to her, but I do not think it advisable that the cousins have their real names published as there is danger in it.

White Lily, Mendon, Kans.—Having ceased to care for the young man and having a good reason, tell him so and cut short further associations. (2) It isn't love at all that prompts a man to act as you say. (3) Some men quit drinking when they promise to, and some do not. You run a great risk in marrying a man who drinks.

Violet, New York City.—The man should write first unless the lady writes to give him her address as by previous arrangement. (2) People are introduced to each other in public conveyances, even in New York, but it is not very elegant.

Kate, Stephensville, Miss.—Don't marry any one of the five. Take somebody you love.

Sorrow, Lindsey, Kan.—Don't marry the rich but irreverent young man whom you do not want to marry and whom you abominate. There is no law in Kansas compelling you to. You'd a thousand times better earn your own living.

Ethelyn of El Dorado, Kan., and Ignorance of Woodsworth, Md., are two more cousins who are suffering from indifferent young men. Girls, girls, girls, won't you ever learn that you must throw that kind over and throw them hard? Why in the name of common sense do you want to waste your brains or hearts on the men who only laugh at you? If you can't help it, you have my sincerest sympathy.

Now all your questions are answered, either directly or to some other cousin asking the same questions, and I must say by by till September and wish you good luck while I run away for a minute's vacation.

COUSIN MARION.

AN AWFUL SUFFERER.

If there is any disease which is awful in its effects upon the sufferer, that disease is Asthma. Suffocating, gasping for air, and sitting up, perhaps for weeks, in an agony of despair, weary, worn and helpless, such is the life of one who is afflicted with Asthma. An explorer on the Congo River in Darkest Africa, recently discovered



the wonderful Kola Plant, which has proved an unfailing cure for Asthma, Hay-fever and allied spasmodic diseases. And now all over Europe physicians are endorsing and prescribing the Kola Plant as the only sure constitutional cure for these diseases. There are seven thousand recorded cures within three months. So sure are the importers of Kola of the fact that it cannot fail to cure, that they are sending out large trial cases free, to any sufferer from Asthma or Hay-fever who makes the request. For the benefit of our readers who may be afflicted, we cheerfully give the address of the Importing Company, who have given this boon to humanity. Address Kola Importing Co., 1162 Broadway, New York, and they will send you a Large Trial Case free, by mail, and prepaid. It costs you nothing and you should surely try it.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

A Hot Weather Comfort.

THE NEW

PETITE LAMP CHIMNEY STOVE.

IN USE ON THE CHIMNEY.

THIS is a very useful device (made of brass) for adjusting on the top of an ordinary lamp chimney, for cooking purposes. It is readily *adjustable to any chimney*. It will readily support any ordinary metal plate, or pan, or dipper, in which to do the boiling or cooking. For many purposes this Lamp Chimney Stove is *far superior* and a *thousand times more convenient* than an expensive oil or vapor stove. For the *Dining Room* in *Summer*, shops and offices, it is unsurpassed. For the *Sick Room* it is *indispensable*.

And Only Look at the Price,

10 cents each, carefully boxed, and postage paid. Or 20 *for a dollar*, which is just 5 cents each, and delivered *free*, either by mail or express, to agents. You only need sell *four* out of your 20, to get your money back. All you sell of the other *sixteen*, will be clear gain to you. You cannot do better than invest a dollar.

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This paper 3 months on trial and sample stove only 10 cents.

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A Trial Treatment Sent Privately By Mail Free To All Who Suffer.

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For constipation and stomach troubles Health Granules are guaranteed to be a cure. Price 25c. per bottle, samples free. Colonial Trading Co., Boston, Mass.



This fine gold plate **Ring** or a **Band Ring, Watch, Bracelet, Chatelaine, Hat Pin, Opera Glasses, etc.** .... **FREE** to anyone who will sell our Roman Gold Stick Pins at 10c. each. No money in advance. Just send your name and address and we will mail you ten Pins. You sell them and send us $1.00 and we will mail you the Ring. The Pins sell quickly at the price; suitable for ladies or gentlemen.
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BED-WETTING CURED Sample Free. Dr. F. E. MAY, Bloomington, Ill.



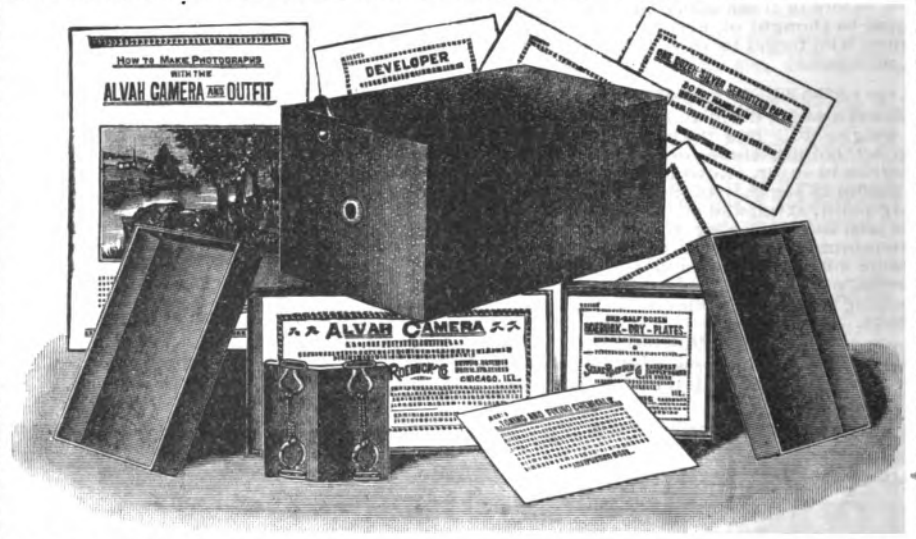
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A PRACTICAL WORKING CAMERA WITH OUTFIT OF MATERIALS FOR TAKING, MAKING AND DEVELOPING FIRST-CLASS PICTURES
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THIS CAMERA AND OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING—We ask no money for it, but will give it to you free as a present for a slight effort on your part to increase our circulation. **Send us 3 subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose with your letter the seventy-five (75) cents which will be payment in full for the subscriptions, and the camera and complete outfit, as here illustrated and described, will be sent you by mail or express** (at our option) **prepaid. All charges paid by us.**



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YOU CAN EASILY GET THREE SUBSCRIBERS. In these hard times many would feel reluctant about paying 50 or 75 cents or $1.00 for a year's subscription to our paper, although there is no question that it is well worth that amount to anyone; but hardly any person will hesitate a moment over the trifling sum of **25 CENTS** when it will purchase **A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to so valuable and entertaining a paper as COMFORT.** At this very low price you need only to show a sample copy of our paper and you will secure three and even more subscribers right in your immediate neighborhood. **Every member of the family is interested in COMFORT.**

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THE ALVAH CAMERA **retails regularly at $1.00,** and is as good as any of the cameras that are sold at $1.00 without the developing outfit. But we have made arrangements with one of **the largest camera manufacturers in the United States** to supply us with these cameras, at a figure which is a mere trifle above the net cost of the camera to the manufacturer **We give our readers the benefit of our advantageous contract.**

THE ALVAH CAMERA USES REGULAR GLASS PLATES (not films). **It comes with all the necessary articles and materials** and everything is explained in the instruction book, **"HOW TO MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS."**

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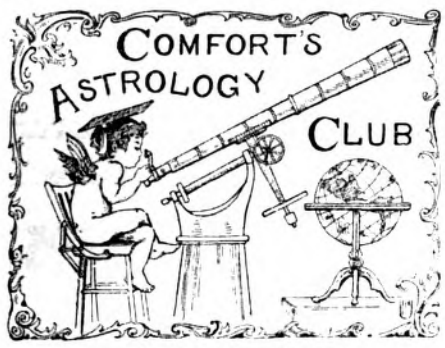
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4. **Cool Ned, the Cyclone** ; or, The Road Agent's Doom.
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9. **Burt, the Hero** ; or, Adventures of a Plucky Boy.
10. **Cavalry Curt** ; or, The Wizard of the Army.
11. **Sam, the Wharf-Rat** ; or, Outwitted by a Boy.
12. **Larke, the Lawyer Shadow** ; or the Haunted Ranch on the Prairie.
13. **Giant Pete, The Trailer** ; or, Saved by a Miracle.
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WHEN the Sun arrives at the first minute of the celestial sign Libra the Autumn quarter commences; and in the figure erected for that time the 6th degree of Leo is on the eastern horizon while the 25th degree of Aries is on the south meridian, overhead. Leo ascending gives the Sun as chief significator or ruler of the figure. The moon will be in the midheaven in benevolent aspect with Mercury in the 3rd house where also the Sun and Venus are located. Mars is moving into conjunction with Jupiter, both in the 4th house; while the two great malefics Saturn and Herschel are in the 5th house.

Altogether the figure for the quarter is a very favorable one for the general peace and prosperity of the nation. The Moon and Mercury dignified and in benefic aspect, promises unusual travel and marked improvement in railway traffic and in all the commercial lines. Railways will be favored and postal service will be effective and satisfactory. The agricultural community will be prospered, there being an abundance of corn or at least good prices for same to the farmers. True, Mars is in the 4th and may show some harm from drought or violent or other unusual disturbances of the atmosphere. The fall is likely to show some unusually dry spells which are harmful to yield of farm products in sections.

The malefics in the 5th do not promise so favorably for the Nation's sports and there are to be encountered some bad accidents or some disease affecting horses, particularly of the racing class. It is apprehended that there may be some accident or disaster in places of sports and entertainment and probably in the last two-thirds of November some bad fire or panic in a hotel, school, or theater involving wholesale injury to women and children. Let all custodians of public buildings, school houses, theaters, hotels and places of amusement see to it that the responsibility for no disaster of such a nature can be laid at their door.

There will be harmony between the people and the governing authorities and general approval and endorsement by the people of administrative action. Some conflict of authority or lawlessness is indicated in our extreme northwestern territory with probability of earth tremors and turbulent wind storms and injury to grass ranges or growing crops in the northwest, affecting cattle quite seriously.

The diseases likely to be quickened and which prove more fatal to mankind than usual are those affecting digestion in which the liver and bowels are primarily involved. Typhoid, malarial and bilious disorders are likely to prove more frequent and obstinate than usual.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER, 1899.

SEPTEMBER 1—Friday. On this day make applications to officers of large corporations or government officials for favor or advancement; conditions favor the pursuit of the antiquary and chemist; but do not have any dealings in real estate nor make purchases for trade.

2—Saturday. Push business of all kinds; consult thy dentist, engage in surgery, experiment in chemistry, trade in cattle or metals, and travel; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain, and with discretion in mining and railway stocks, if thy nativity likewise favor; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with machinists, engineers, miners, also persons in fiduciary capacities. Money transactions are generally favored and literary ventures should be urged to the utmost; do important correspondence, execute deeds and writings, hire help and purchase merchandise for trade.

3—Sunday. An excellent Sabbath day; the efforts of the clergy will be happy and effective; the day gives special enjoyment of the elegant in literature and art.

4—Monday. Improve every moment of this day, particularly for monetary transactions, buy goods for trade and deal with judges and all engaged in the ecclesiastical callings; the artist, musician, and all engaged in the artistic pursuits should waste no moments of this day in idleness or pleasure for the passing time promises unusual advantage from works now begun or executed; this day favors courtship and invites the marriage contract; aspirants for literary or artistic honors should now launch their productions with more than ordinary assurance of success.

5—Tuesday. Seek not profit from dealings in real estate nor expect to find favor with persons advanced in years during the forenoon hours of this day when also baffling and disappointing conditions prevail generally; do not invest thy money in the afternoon when also take care of the pennies; have no work done to the teeth on this day.

6—Wednesday. Have dealings on this day with public officials or managing authorities or superintendents in great corporations or upon large public works; solicit favor from railway officials and from persons of prominence noted for eccentricity of conduct or habit.

7—Thursday. A very fortunate day for agricultural matters and for having any manner of dealings with landlords or in houses or lands, mining properties, lumber, coal, or wool; urge the elegant occupations and the polite arts; do painting and artistic work of all kinds.

8—Friday. Begin this day with the Sun and spare no moments in idleness; the time is specially favorable for the merchant and tradesman and for all engaged in the literary avocations; choose the day for removal, travel, and buying goods for trade; seek money accommodations and speculate if thy nativity favor also at present.

9—Saturday. Do not relax thine efforts of yesterday but urge the pursuit of business throughout the day; fortunate for transacting business with the wealthy, seeking money accommodations and dealing with bankers, judges, and the principal officers of railways and other large corporate bodies; push all honorable pursuits with more than ordinary assurance of success; renew thy stock in trade and urge all commercial contracts to the utmost.

10—Sunday. An unfavorable Sabbath day, being likely to be marked by depressing experiences; and inviting rest and quiet in preference to activity in any direction.

11—Monday. An evil day. The morning is peculiarly unpropitious and bids thee postpone important writings and correspondence and all commercial enterprises. It is unfortunate as a birthday anniversary, as also is the passing time for persons born about the 10th of March, June, or December of past years, as the majority of these are likely to be in the midst of some unusual mental excitements or anxieties, or to be suffering from nervous disorders, especially if they have exhausted their nerve forces by long hours or protracted mental labors in the past few months. Such persons who are mentally infirm generally, are likely now to develop malice and cunning and should be kept under quiet supervision.

12—Tuesday. One of the most unfortunate days of the month; undertake nothing of importance if thou wouldst have it succeed and avoid exposing thyself to danger. Indeed, the 48 hours ending with the midnight of this day embrace planetary combinations of unusual evil, inviting rest, quiet and extraordinary care in all respects. REGULUS cautions his friends against entering at this time upon any new business or enterprise, for nothing now begun will prosper, nor should any permanent benefit be expected from the general transactions of the day; travel not if it can be avoided and beware of incurring the displeasure of those in authority; government officials and officers of railroads and other large corporations will not be favorably disposed; the criminal classes are unusually disturbed and moved to the commission of crime and acts of violence; the vital energies are low and sudden collapse in all serious afflictions is to be guarded against; the day is greatly to be avoided for any matrimonial contract; many very strange and ill-assorted marriages are effected at this time and disappointment, poverty and unhappiness will fall to the lot of the greater number who now assume the matrimonial yoke; ladies should not allow any alluring prospect of riches to influence them at this time to make any engagement of the above nature. All persons born as indicated in the preceding paragraph will need to exercise unusual care in all their business ventures in these passing weeks and in all matters of health; ladies, so born, are now in the midst of trying experiences in family, domestic, or heart affairs. Some bad cases of brutality towards the female sex are indicated for this time and a sort of epidemic of suicides prevails. Let all be patient, if born as indicated, and put up with evils that exist rather than to fly to others unknown.

13—Wednesday. The week so far has been a very unfortunate one that could not be recommended for any important venture; to-day brings some marked improvement in conditions and best efforts should now be put forth; every moment should be improved diligently pushing all manner of business, signing deeds, entering into contracts and pursuing literary avocations to the fullest extent; let special preference be given to the noon and afternoon hours for the most important work.

14—Thursday. The forenoon is baffling and disappointing and no business deals should be inaugurated then, especially concerning houses or lands, or any products of agriculture; the evening is better for the musical and artistic pursuits and enjoyment of the drama.

15—Friday. Bridle the tongue in the morning hours and keep out of all kinds of disputes, but as the day advances let all efforts be crowded, particularly in the direction of the literary labors and mental exercises; commercial contracts are to be urged vigorously on this day.

16—Saturday. The day after the early morning is a good one and should be fully improved for the major undertakings of life; preference being given, if any, to the mechanical pursuits.

17—Sunday. The forenoon conduces to happy efforts of the clergy, giving unusual volubility to the tongue as well as eloquence and zeal to pulpit discourse.

18—Monday. Arise betimes and urge all monetary engagements before the noon hour; solicit money accommodations and make purchases for trade as early as 9 o'clock in the morning, if possible; the noon and afternoon are less to be depended upon and forbid the execution of any contract pertaining to houses and lands or that is concerned with printing or publishing; see that no deceit is practiced as the afternoon advances and give a wide berth to persons advanced in years.

19—Tuesday. Unpromising for dealings in decorative or ornamental goods, nor should the time be taken for any important social, musical, or dramatic entertainment or the pursuit of pleasure in any direction; beware of leading thy fair one to the altar in the first half of the day, nor need much advantage be looked for in any of the elegant or artistic pursuits; the evening is favorable for engagements with persons noted for eccentricity of habit and should be used for correspondence with government officials or dealers in patents or newly discovered secrets.

20—Wednesday. Have dealings on this day with the laboring classes generally and also with persons who are engaged in the agricultural pursuits; though the day is not recommended for any writing pertaining to lands or mining properties.

21—Thursday. Fully employ the forenoon in thy several avocations, but have care as the afternoon advances not to be led into controversies; be not oversensitive in the dealings with thy fellowmen; and do not embark in any undertaking concerned with machinery or drugs, or chemicals; avoid chemists, bakers, brewers, tanners, cutlers, glass manufacturers, and generally all workers in metal.

22—Friday. Have care of the purse in the forenoon when speculations are best not indulged in; do not buy goods for trade except in limited quantities and to "tide over" nor be extravagant or make needless purchases; seek no favors from female employers or superintendents in the afternoon, when the fine arts suffer some detriment or give dissatisfaction.

23—Saturday. Conflicting conditions prevail in the first half of this day, not encouraging any kind of bargain or sale of land or its products; literary undertakings are favored and important correspondence should be urged; seek advantage from thine employer or superior in the afternoon.

24—Sunday. There is little of promise for this forenoon, especially of assistance to the clergy, those connected with religious worship, or for matters of an ecclesiastical nature.

25—Monday. Be in no haste to begin thy labors on this day especially if they pertain to matters connected with houses or lands, or such commodities as coal, wood, lumber, or agricultural products; the middle and latter hours of the day are the best and should be fully improved for the honorable pursuits in life.

26—Tuesday. Have care in all contracts or agreements pertaining to the elegant pursuits or any of the artistic productions, as such matters are not favorably influenced; engage in chemical experiments and in the prosecution of business dealings in cattle, metals, machinery, cutlery, and with those engaged in the mechanical trades.

27—Wednesday. Have no transactions at this time with persons who are eccentric in habit or as to dress; or who are concerned with patents or patented goods; avoid railway authorities and do not expect much civility from railway employees or public officials.

28—Thursday. Begin the day early and urge all business diligently; REGULUS particularly urges his friends in the intellectual pursuits to press their several vocations to the utmost and recommends the day equally for the merchant, tradesman, and traveler, for change of residence and dealings with printers, booksellers, stationers and counsellors, and for having transactions pertaining to patents, trade-marks and patented articles.

29—Friday. Use the first half of the day to its fullest extent, especially for all the elegant transactions, and for art and music; also for dealings in wearing apparel and for the gratification of mankind; the afternoon forbids purchases for trade and cautions prudence in expenditures.

30—Saturday. Give attention on this day to thy dealings in houses and lands, and agricultural and mining products, also with persons in the very laborious and dirty avocations generally.



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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AGUINALDO'S HEADQUARTERS.

DECIDEDLY the situation in the Philippines is, to say the least, unpleasant. On one hand we are assured from official utterances that the situation is everything that could be desired and that as soon as the rainy season is over the insurrection will be promptly quelled. On the other hand it is claimed that our army is practically penned up in Manila, and notwithstanding the many successes which we have made it has been impossible to hold the ground which has been gained time and again without costly struggle. The truth probably lies part way between the two statements, and it will be necessary to have a much larger army in the Philippines to garrison the points which are successively won. It is an easy matter to criticise and tell how the campaign should be run from the comfort of an office at home, but it is a very different matter handling successfully an army in a comparatively unknown mountain country and to quell a formidable insurrection which partakes both of the character of regularly organized warfare and the more wearing and dangerous part of campaigning, guerilla or bushwhacking war.

Another source of weakness just at the present time is that a large part of the volunteer soldiers are returning home. These men are acclimated and have really become veteran fighters. Their places are being slowly refilled by regulars in the service. With the islands garrisoned as far as possible and with quite a large army at Manila, there are available only from four to seven thousand men for active operations, and while criticism is easy it is impossible for so small an army to fight and at the same time furnish garrisons for every point which is captured.

The administration realizing this condition, while loth to call for volunteers, are rapidly organizing an increased army of regulars enlisted for two years. There will be an increase of some 35,000 or 40,000 men sent to the Philippines and it is almost certain that with such an increase the insurrection will be speedily quelled. Meantime the campaign is comparatively inactive, and with one exception there has been nothing exciting for some time. An expedition of about one thousand men was surrounded by the insurgents and would have been annihilated but for the timely intervention of the naval forces. This is the nearest we have had to a defeat in the present campaign.

People who are thoroughly conversant with Malay characteristics state that the Filipino, when inspired by desire for revenge, is a formidable enemy; but once convinced that he has made a mistake, these feelings leave at once and he is a pacific and quiet citizen inclined to keep well within the law. Upon this trait great hopes are being formed for dealing with the Filipino masses. It is believed that as soon as they are convinced that the Americans are actually their friends and that they are to have better government, a lesson which they are rapidly learning from every point where the Americans are in control, they will rapidly become good citizens.

The testimony of all people who have lately become familiar with the Filipinos is to the effect that they are far above the average Cuban, both in education and ability, and that they are really very desirable people of good traits of character as a whole. It must be remembered that for three centuries they have been under the dominion of a foreign government; and that they naturally look upon foreigners as meaning rapacity, tyranny and mendacity. It will take some time to overcome the traditions of generations, but it will surely come and bring with it peace, order and happiness as has been the case in the British possessions every time where similar opposition has been made to that nation when first taking possession.

Readers of COMFORT will judge newspaper statements upon the situation as rather overdrawn, remembering that the question of the future government of the Philippines is very probable to be a prominent question in the



CHIEF JUSTICE CHAMBERS.

next national political campaign and that many of the statements made by the so-called anti-Imperialists are being put abroad at the present time to inflame people against the policy of the administration. It is to be remembered that this country has taken no definite stand as to what the future of the Philippines shall be further than that they have paid to have Spain leave them and that the possession must be in the hands of the United States. Misleading statements are continually made representing Aguinaldo as another Washington and the insurgents as similar to the Continental Army in the days of our Revolution; but to any person who has followed the events the situation is entirely different, Aguinaldo being an adventurer, having but a comparatively small part of the people actively with him and being a despotic and ambitiously selfish man. The policy laid down by President McKinley at the Boston dinner is the only one which can really be followed, and that is that neither the President nor any other person can make the decision nor is it right to do so without authority; but that until Congress shall have determined exactly what line is to be taken, it is the duty of the government to uphold the United States in its ownership and to forcibly repress any insurrection against that power.

One of the instances that has recently come to light is of considerable interest to Americans, and that is that for six months thousands of papers and pamphlets were published and distributed among the Filipinos, who are generally fairly well educated, portraying the Americans as the vilest people on earth and much inferior in every way to the Spaniards. It is said that these stories magnified every unpleasant instance in connection with the Indians and pictured innumerable lynchings and burnings as the customary way of punishing men; and going back to the days before the Civil War, gave pictures of slave life and taught the Filipinos that that was to be their lot as soon as the Americans had conquered. The effect of such literature can easily be imagined, and it has been one of the greatest obstacles with which our people have had to contend. The effect is very much heightened by the action of the people opposed to the administration who have played into the hands of the enemy by furnishing them all kinds of hope and encouragement.

One of the distorted stories told by the "yellow" papers of the campaign was in effect that men, women and children were ruthlessly massacred and slaughtered at Malabon. Now comes Professor Worcester, one of our commissioners, who has personally followed the army and examined every battlefield from Caloocan to Malolos—often before the burial of the dead or the removal of the wounded. He has never discovered either dead or wounded women or children. Nor have prisoners ever been killed. On the contrary, insurgent wounded have been tenderly cared for by our American soldiers, who have shown as would be expected humanity, self-control and chivalry at all times. War is always bad enough but it is more than indecency to publish such revolting stories merely to pander to depraved tastes for sensationalism; or, what is worse, to recount such stories for political purposes.



HON. BELLAMY STORER.

The appointment of a new board of commissioners on the Nicaragua canal project by the President has called renewed attention to that enterprise. There is no reason to doubt that ever since the last congress failed to pass any bill relative to this undertaking there has been very much thought given the subject; and that a very great proportion of our people, remembering the *Oregon's* flight around Cape Horn to meet the Spanish fleet a year ago, believe that such a waterway should be made. There are many rumors of the railroad influence being against it and also of jobbery in connection with the proposed canal; but undoubtedly the larger part of our citizens believe it should be completed at once. We are no longer an infant nation and our sudden coming into power in the Orient makes it necessary that we should always be in a prepared state of defense.

In a previous article COMFORT told at length about the present enterprise. It is probable that no other enterprise of similar nature has ever had the attention which has been given the proposed canal. As early as 1836 DeWitt Clinton with other capitalists first surveyed it. The great rush of people to California after the gold strike of '49 caused a Vanderbilt syndicate to survey it again, and altogether nine surveys have been made. It is the belief of every practical man that there is no reason why the canal shall not be more of a success than ever the Suez canal has been since it was built. The success and experience of the latter has been made a basis of the expectations of the Nicaragua, and it is calculated there will be at least 5,000,000 tons shipping annually at a toll of an average of $1.50 a ton. Had this canal been completed the *Oregon* instead of sailing 15,000 miles would have been saved two-thirds the distance. Incidentally it is well to know that from New York to Manila is 200 miles shorter by Suez than by the proposed way.

Speaking of this canal reminds COMFORT that the largest canal ever devised is now being constructed by the Russian government connecting the Baltic and the Black seas. When this is completed Russian warships will be able to pass from her southern to northern boundaries without the necessity of making a voyage through the Mediterranean Sea and on through the British channel. The entire length of the way is 1080 miles; but of this 850 miles are on rivers, leaving the remainder to be excavated.

The situation in the Samoan islands remains comparatively unchanged. The king has been deposed and the joint commission representing the three powers—America, England and Germany, has undertaken the government of the islands. This has led to the disarmament of the natives and a peaceful and secure situation. It now appears that Chief Justice Chambers has taken a wise course and that his various decisions for the government of the islands and their laws will have the support of the commission. Chief Justice Chambers has been a most prominent figure throughout the whole trouble and apparently has shown great tact and decision in dealing with the various factions which have supported the native claimants for the crown.

One of the most noticeable features of the recent celebration of July 4th was the universal recognition of the day both at home and abroad. The leading position which America has taken in the affairs of the world in the past year caused most general attention to be paid to the anniversary. In every part of the world our flag was saluted, the English being particularly demonstrative and friendly. In our own country more powder was burned than ever before, and the noisy demonstrations were noticeable in every city and hamlet. It would be impossible to calculate the amount of money expended in these celebrations. China exports about $40,000,000 worth of firecrackers a year and over two-thirds of these are burned in this country, which is but a small part of the amount. It is said that about a score of American boys in Havana showed the inhabitants for the first time what a celebration meant, much to the surprise of local police which had orders not to interfere.

One of the pleasant features of the day was the very general display of American flags and bunting in the Cuban cities and a particularly enthusiastic celebration in San Juan, Porto Rico. On the whole the progress of American rule in Cuba is entirely encouraging and is evidently rapidly gaining respect and encouragement of all the better class of inhabitants.

Hon. Bellamy Storer, our newly-appointed minister to Spain, has presented his credentials at the court of the Queen-Regent and been pleasantly received. Diplomatic relations between the two countries accordingly have returned to the position in which they were previous to the recent war.



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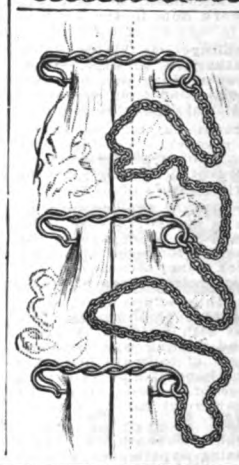


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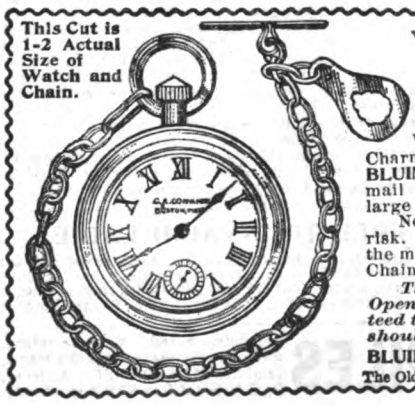
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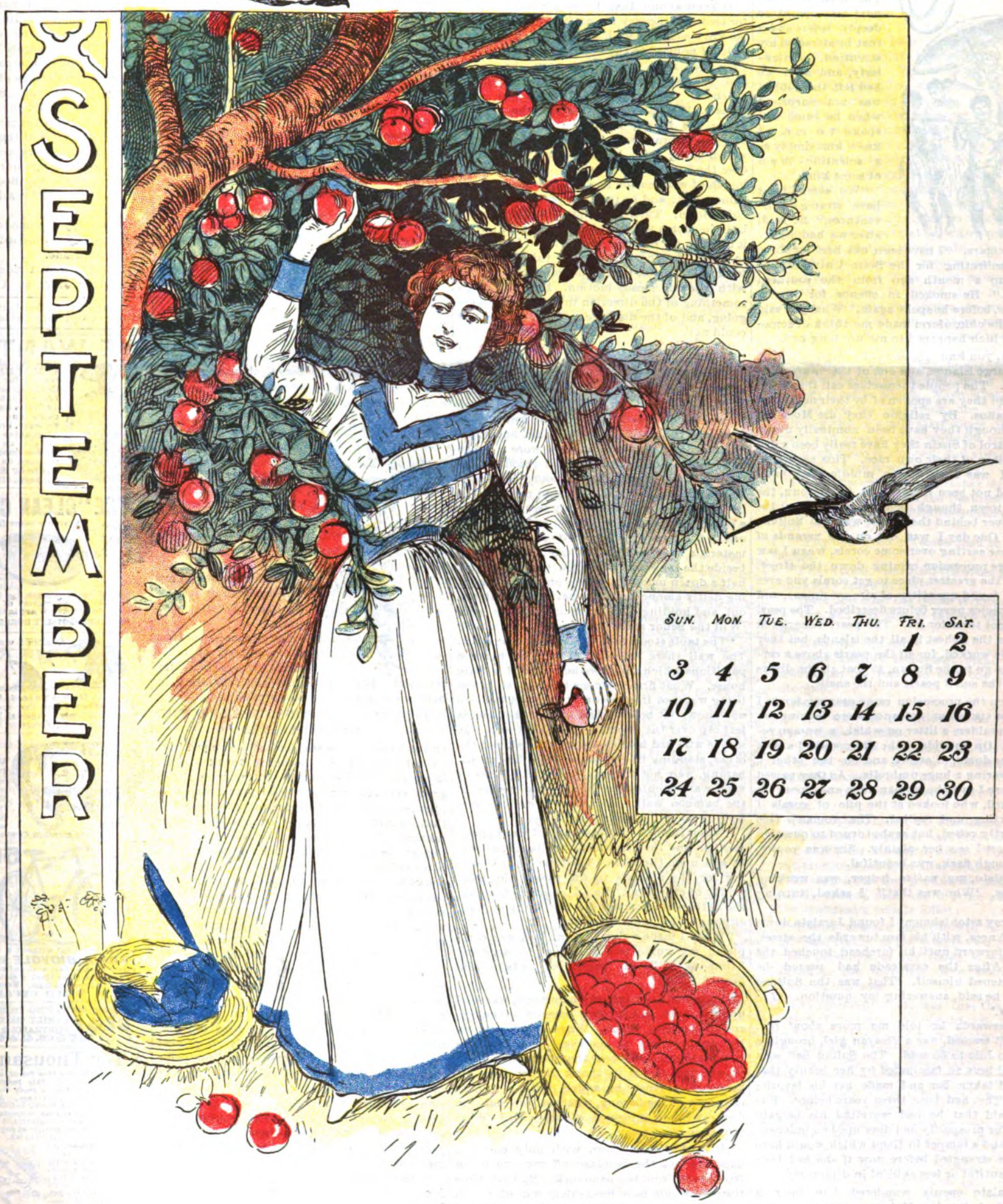
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PRIZE WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER.

M. B. Thrasher, First Prize.
Katherine E. Letts, Second Prize.
J. Reveira, Third Prize.
Ellen F. Wyckoff, Fourth Prize.
Frank H. Sweet, Fifth Prize.

THE BLACK PEARL OF SULU.

A Story of the Philippine Islands.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY M. B. THRASHER.

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ONE day at dinner, after I had returned to Manila, I told the story of the Voodoo Queen of Cagayan. The man who sat next me seemed so deeply interested that he attracted my attention, particularly, and after we had left the table I was not surprised when he came and spoke to me. I knew him simply as a scientific man of some kind.

"We scientists have strange adventures," he said, after we had lighted our cigars. "I have been out here for three years, collecting for the State University. I came up a month ago from the southern islands." He smoked in silence for several minutes, before he spoke again. What you said about the chloroform made me think of something which happened to me not long ago.

"Sulu, you know, is one of the most southern of the large islands, and one of the nearest to Borneo. The people themselves call the island Jolo, and they are spoken of by their neighbors as Joloanos. By religion they are Moslems, and although they have been nominally under the control of Spain they have really been ruled by a Sultan of their own race. This sovereign when I was there was a middle-aged man.

"I had not been a fortnight in Maibun, the capital town, though, before I learned that the real power behind the throne was the Sultana Hegu. One day I was out on the veranda of my house sorting over some corals, when I saw a strange procession coming down the street. Sulu is the greatest place to get corals you ever saw. I found quantities of rare specimens, and three species never before described. The pearl divers got them for me. The pearl fisheries in Sulu are the richest in all the islands, but they are little worked, for all the pearls above a certain size go to the Sultan, so that all the divers get are the small pearls and the shells.

"When the procession came near my house I saw that six stout Joloanos were bearing on their shoulders a litter on which a woman reclined. On one side of the litter walked a sort of major domo, or escort, and on the other a slave bearing a huge umbrella. As they passed my house I saw the woman turn and speak to the guard, who looked at the pile of corals I was sorting, and replied. The woman's face was partly veiled, but as she turned to question her escort I saw her plainly. She was young, and though dark, was beautiful.

"Juralato, my native helper, was working with me. 'Who was that?' I asked, turning to him.

"To my astonishment I found Juralato down on his knees, with his face towards the street, bowed forward until his forehead touched the floor. After the cavalcade had passed he straightened himself. 'That was the Sultana Hegu', he said, answering my question. '*The* Sultana.'

"Afterwards he told me more about her. Hegu, it seemed, was a Visayan girl, brought a slave to Jolo to be sold. The Sultan had seen her and been so fascinated by her beauty that he had taken her and made her his favorite wife. That had been three years before. Rumor said that he had regretted his bargain since, for prosperity had developed an independence and a temper in Hegu which would have had her strangled before now if she had been less beautiful or less skillful in diplomacy.

"Juralato openly wondered how long it would be before Her Majesty would be put out of the way, and one day when we were being paddled in from the coral reefs and met going out the state boat of the Sultan, a long, low craft with many carvings and draperies, he declared the deed must have been done and that the Sultan was making a voyage to another town of the island to find Hegu's successor.

"That night I woke to find my body held firmly in the hammock in which I slept, while a thick cloth was being bound tightly over my mouth. Before I could twist myself free to shout for help a native's voice close to my ear said distinctly:

"'Let the Senor not fear. It is a very little thing which is wanted of him, and if he will only lie quiet he shall not be harmed. But if he be not quiet, it is not to us the difference will be made.'

"The room was dimly lighted, but by the light I could see a native standing on the other side of the hammock, with a barong raised to strike. A barong is sword, axe, saw, and bayonet, all in one, in the hands of a Sulu. I had seen them clip a goat's head from the body with one blow of the weapon, and then with another blow cleave the carcass from neck to tail. There was no one in the house except myself, so it did not take me long to decide to lie quiet.

"Producing a rope of cocoanut fibre the native who had spoken to me, beginning at my feet, wound it around me in the hammock until I was swathed from feet to neck as tightly as an Egyptian mummy, except that one arm was left free from the elbow. The reason for this I saw a moment later, when I was asked:

"'Where does the Senor keep the sweet smelling water which makes monkeys sleep dead?'

"I knew at once that he meant chloroform, for that was the way the natives who had seen me kill specimens with the drug always spoke of it. I pointed to the door of the next room. The two men picked up my hammock and carried me there. I pointed again to a chest, from which, directed by my signals, that one of the natives who seemed to be the leader, took two pint tin cans of chloroform and put them in a bag which hung from his shoulder. 'What else does the Senor use?' he asked. I pointed to a bunch of wild cotton and some cones made of banana leaf; and he put these with the cans of chloroform. Then he tied a cloth over my head in such a way that I could not have pulled it off with my one free hand, even if I had tried to do so. In the darkness of this covering I felt my hammock taken up again and carried with a swift steady motion. I tried to judge something of the direction in which we were going, and of the distance covered, but found I could not.

"When the cloth was taken from my face I found the hammock had been swung in a large, brightly lighted room. I felt quite sure that in no house in Maibun except the royal palace of the Sultan could so large a room have been found, but of this I had no real knowledge. The same two natives were with me, but in the brighter light of this room each wore a mask of cocoanut cloth. One of them stood as before, with his barong poised ready to strike. The other, when he had unwound me from the hammock and helped me to my feet, led me to a table at one end of the room on which was one of the cans of chloroform and the other materials which we had brought. On the floor beside the table was a bamboo cage in which half a dozen monkeys were confined. Reaching deftly among them the native brought one out, and holding him down on the table said, 'Will the Senor make the monkey sleep dead?'

"The table stood near one end of the room. The wall there was one of the light bamboo partitions which separate the rooms of a Sulu house. What first made me think that I was being watched from behind this partition I do not know, but before I had pressed the banana leaf cap over the monkey's nose I felt sure the native who had handed me the animal, and the other, standing like a statue with his poised barong, were not my only audience. Who or what was watching me through the meshes of the bamboo wall I did not know, but somebody or something was there.

"When the first victim lay still I was handed another, and then another, until three lay side by side upon the table. The time I spent waiting for the animals to die passed the most slowly of any in my life. I could not speak, the natives did not, nor did the bamboo wall, although I felt sure it might.

"When I made a sign that my task was completed my guide said, turning towards my hammock, 'Will the Senor let us take him home?'

"I climbed back into the hammock, was tied up once more, had my face covered as before, and was carried home. When my hammock had been swung in its usual place the man who all along had been the spokesman said, 'I have the honor to thank the Senor for his kindness. I trust,' he added, with a significant look at the barong, 'that no one but the Senor will be informed of our visit.' With that they went away.

"It took me an hour, with only one free hand, to get the bandage off my mouth and free myself from the hammock. By that time the men would have been safely out of reach, even if I had wished to follow them, which I did not. I felt sure they were the two Visayans who had attended the Sultana the day her litter had been carried past my house. I carefully removed all trace of their visit before Juralato came in the morning. While I was doing this I noticed that the men had even brought back with me the empty tin can from which we had used the chloroform.

"I had already been planning to leave Sulu that week, for Teomabal, a small island not far away, and did so, bringing my specimens with me. I stayed a month at Teomabal, collecting. While I was there a pearl diver's boat bound north brought the news of the death of the Sultan of Sulu. As he had no heirs the Sultana Hegu ruled as his successor.

"The day before I was to leave for Manila a Sulu prau hove in sight from the south. She dropped anchor in the harbor, and a native came on shore from her, asking for me. I knew him at once as the Visayan escort of the Sultana and my midnight visitor, but not a muscle of his face showed that he had ever seen me before.

"'I have the honor to deliver this package to the Senor,' said he, handing me a small bundle. Saluting gravely, he returned to his boat, and in less than an hour the sails of the prau were bearing her southward again.

"I untied the cocoanut fibre covering of the package to find the second of the two tin chloroform cans taken from me that night. Something inside it rattled. Had some one sent me a child's rattle? I unscrewed the top and turned out into my hand, this."

The teller of the story touched the spring of a large gold case which he had taken from his pocket, and held out towards me a superb black pearl, so large and perfect that almost no one but an Eastern monarch could have hoped to own it.

"You will hardly go back to Sulu," I said, when I had done admiring the beautiful jewel.

He did not answer at once, but looked at the pearl, clicked the case shut, and returned it to his pocket. When he did speak it was to say, "I shall go back there as soon as I can travel safely."

The way he looked when he said this made me wonder, thinking of it now, if, after all, the gem he had shown me was for him the real "black pearl of Sulu."

Men are strange creatures, sometimes.

Absconded—The Treasurer of the United States.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY KATHERINE E. LETTS.

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"ALL about the great robbery!" shouted a newsboy. "Scandal in high life! Embezzler on his way to Canada!"

I was just swinging onto the morning train as it pulled out of Thompkinsville for Philadelphia. "Here," I shouted. The boy ran up and extended a paper as I reached out for it, but being a sharp business boy, and not seeing the money in my fingers, he drew it back again and I was carried on.

One glance had shown me, however, that his call was correct, for across the head of the first three columns, in huge scare type, were the words—

ABSCONDED—THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES

and as I sank into a seat and settled myself for a comfortable ride I began to think it over. What possibilities lay in those few words! So great were that official's powers and responsibilities that he could steal moneys to an extent that would make the average embezzler ashamed of his profession. He was not limited to what bonds and notes he could carry away in a hand satchel, for he could boldly order his clerks and underlings to pack up millions of the bulkier treasure, the gold and silver coin, and ship it to such points as he should designate. If he laid his plans carefully, and struck boldly enough, he could vanish to some foreign country and become a prince among men.

The person of the treasurer of the United States is of greater or less importance, depending largely on his own inclination and temperament. Like the president, he can go wholly unguarded, or can be watched over day and night by Secret Service men, ready to protect him from the assaults of cranks and footpads.

Of course the treasurer does not carry the bulk of the national gold reserve in a belt inside his shirt, nor does he carry home the greater part of the greenback circulation for safe-keeping under his pillow. But lots of people may think that he does, and it is a wise man who takes ample precautions.

What a fine thing it would be, I thought, if I could find the treasurer and arrest him. With the man once in hand it ought to be possible to make him disclose the hiding place of all the money he had taken, or, failing that, induce him to return it in exchange for his liberty. I once held a warrant as a deputy sheriff at home and ever since then have had an itching to arrest somebody.

Now it happens that I know Roberts Morgan by sight, and just as my train came to a halt in the station at Philadelphia, I caught a glimpse of a familiar figure approaching from the ticket inspector's gate; a second glance convinced me that the hurrying traveler was none other than the fugitive treasurer. He was holding a handkerchief to his face and this, while serving to conceal his identity in part, did not look sufficiently suspicious to excite the gateman's curiosity.

I sprang from the couch, skipped across two open tracks to intercept him. He removed the handkerchief and I recognized Morgan beyond a doubt. Just as he went to step up to his car I laid my hand on his shoulder. He made no move beyond glancing quickly around, but the next instant I was hit a tremendous blow in the ear that made me hear the roar of falling Niagaras, and another across the forehead that produced showers of shooting stars and similar fireworks. At the same time I was jammed down onto the rails, and rubbed around on the ground. I took little interest in the immediately succeeding events, but was dimly conscious of being hauled off in a wagon through a crowd of people who shouted and danced, through thronged streets to some public building where I was locked in a narrow room.

When I returned to full consciousness I found that I was in an insane asylum. The first sounds that smote my ears were the lamentations of a dreamer of treasured wealth. "He wouldn't let me have it," wailed the voice. "It was my money. He hid it where I couldn't find it. Please let me out, I didn't mean no harm. I'll be straight."

Another voice interrupted, seeking to stay the vapid wanderings of the believer in hidden wealth. "Curse you. Stop your chatter. If I could get at you I'd shut off your wind. Blast your eyes. Stop the racket!"

Evidently some of the lunatics were locked like myself in separate cells; but others walked about in the corridor. One approached a grinning face to my door.

"What's yours?" it said.

"Eh?"

"How did you come to get pinched?"

Apparently "pinched" was the technical word for insane.

"I tried to steal a ride," continued the face. In other words, as I understood, he had

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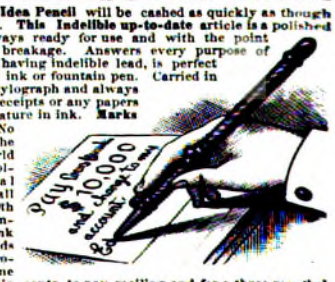
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probably tried to steal a ride on a railway train.

"Oh, you're the fellow that assaulted Morgan," went on the maniac. "What was it? Did you have something against him, or was it his pocketbook you were after? You ought to have more sense than tackle him in the depot. Besides he's always followed by the fly cops." He came closer and pressed his face against the bars, and then broke into a wild discordant laugh, a frightful imitation of hilarity. "Oh, golly!" he shrieked. "Oh, golly!"

As he staggered off I experienced a feeling of profound pity for this poor mental wreck, and at the same time began nervously to wonder what my own special delusion could be. At that juncture a police officer in uniform entered the corridor and began to read a list of names from a paper. What a policeman could be used for in an insane asylum I could not imagine. Finally he called my name, and then unlocked my door and ordered me to come out and get in line. A lot of other lunatics stood in a row, and a tougher, rougher set of men, black and white, I never saw. They all turned their evil eyes on me and I wondered whether they were dangerous. Some grinned, but others looked frightened. As the policeman passed by I caught him by the sleeve, and nearly got clubbed for it.

"What is the name of this asylum?" I asked.

"This what?"

"This insane asylum."

"Haint you got over your drunk yet? This is the police station—city prison—lock-up."

My neighbors hee-hee'd and haw-hawed, and on looking again I saw that they were only a lot of subjects for the afternoon police court and not lunatics at all. One by one they disappeared through a door, through which as it opened and closed, one could catch glimpses of a gaping crowd of loungers, some tables at which lawyers and reporters sat, and the high bench of the police judge.

At last my name was called and the bailiff aided me with no gentle hand to a position before the court. "Hold up your right hand," shouted some one. "Your *right* hand. Don't you know your right hand? Drop that hat!" Then another voice repeated over something that sounded like "cold" shorthand notes look, and wound up with "s'elmeged."

A man sitting at a table read an affidavit in which I, W. Beltney, was charged with assault and battery committed on the person of Robert Morgan. "Do you plead guilty or not guilty?" he asked.

I became aware that every one in the room was laughing at me, except the bailiff, who was trying to restore order. On the table I discovered everything that had been in my pockets; purse, pipe, letters and private papers.

"Of course I'm—" I began, to the man who had read the affidavit.

"Make your reply to the court," he shouted.

"Of course I'm not guilty. I was arresting Morgan for embezzlement," I said, facing around at the judge. There was a smile on *his* face. "What are you laughing at?" I demanded.

Instead of sending me to jail for contempt of court, he pointed toward a mirror. "Go look at yourself," he said.

I looked. The sooty grease into which I had fallen at the depot had plastered itself over my features in artistic smooches that a circus clown might have envied, and I looked the maniac even better than my fellow prisoner of the corridor. They had left me my handkerchief, and when I had wiped away the last streak of grease and cleared my eyes, I turned around and confronted my once fellowtownsman, the Hon. Angus Ohlen, who had left Thompkinsville to dispense justice from the Quaker City police court. He stared for an instant, and then a gleam of recognition leaped into his eyes.

"Well, Beltney," he said, and climbed down from the bench. We shook hands like long lost brothers, to the immense delight of the loungers, one of whom could not resist the temptation to cry, "If mother could only see me now!"

"What is the trouble?" asked his honor, still shaking my hand.

"I learned from the papers that the treasurer of the United States had absconded, and as I saw him making for a train down at the depot, I tried to stop him," I explained.

"And his guards, thinking you meant to assault him, handled you rather roughly, and then sent you in. This is what you saw in the paper, I guess." He pulled a folded Thompkinsville Clarion out of his pocket and displayed the front page. "I was down there this morning; came back on the early train," he added. "Bought the paper just before I started."

ABSCONDED—THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL BANK
of Thompkinsville.
Short in his Accounts.

Caught about midnight at the Canada line.

"Dismiss the case," said his honor, shortly, as he climbed back to his seat. "Beltney, you had better go into my private room and wash up—and," as the policeman who had threatened to club me deferentially showed me the way, "the next time you see an embezzler running around loose, you had better leave him to the tender mercies of the police!"

WOMEN WHO FAINT.

A MODERN APPLICATION OF THE FAMOUS EPIGRAM, "FRAILTY, THY NAME IS WOMAN."

It is a curious fact that the word faint is derived from a French word meaning to pretend. The word feint, meaning a deceptive movement, as by the boxer or swordsman, has the same derivation. So that originally a woman who fell forward in unconsciousness was merely one who feigned illness. But there is no feigning in that sudden failure of the vital power which blanches the cheek, closes the eyes, seems to stop the breath and sends the woman an inert mass upon the counter at which she is shopping. Fainting is very real



for the sufferer who cannot go to ball or theater without this liability to sudden unconsciousness, menacing her enjoyment and safety.

Why do women faint? Women themselves would in this advanced age of progress be the first to deny the charge of physical frailty. They run and row, they swim and ride, they golf and shoot side by side with men. And yet they faint. You rarely hear of a man's fainting. Such a thing is so uncommon as to partake of the nature of a phenomenon. Why don't men faint? Why can a weak framed, undersized man go through life without fainting, when a splendid woman, a Diana for beauty and courage, must know the humiliation of this sudden lapse of consciousness? There is

A SCARLET CLUE

to follow which will bring us safely out from the labyrinth of discussion. There are certain times when a woman is more liable to faint than she is at other times. And those times will be found to be the times when the womanly nature and functions are most dominant. The conclusion is irresistible. As a general proposition a woman faints because the delicate organs by which she is differentiated from brother or husband are affected by disease. Woman is creation's masterpiece, the last and fairest work of the Creator. To her are given joys and sorrows which no man may know and no man can share. To her also is given a capacity for suffering beyond the knowledge of men. The great question is: To what extent is this suffering necessary? Has woman been made so finely only that she may know the refinement of suffering? The very thought is an outrage on Nature. The "new woman" will know nothing of the suffering of the woman of the past. She will "run and not be weary." She will "walk and not faint." Let her put away at once and forever the thought that she is under Nature's particular ban and must suffer because she is a woman. Let her relegate that superstition to the limbo where all the old superstitions that left her a slave have long been relegated. Let her believe that there is a way to sound, physical health which those that seek will surely find.

THE RIGHT WAY

to escape the physical bondage of weakness is to follow the guidance of other women who have found a way of escape from the sufferings so long esteemed inseparable from the feminine nature.

"For seven years I was confined to bed most of the time," writes Mrs. M. P. Davis, of Honaker, Russell Co., Va. "I had four doctors and they said I could not be cured. I had ulceration of womb and female weakness so I could not stand on my feet but a short time; had bearing down sensation, pain in the small of my back. My stomach and bowels, also legs and feet, would swell, and everything I ate hurt me. I could not sleep well, was so short of breath I could not lie down at night; had soreness and tenderness over womb; troubled with palpitation of heart, and suffered with headache all the time. I would get blind and have fainting spells. After the doctors said I could not be cured I got hold of one of Dr. Pierce's Memorandum Books and read about how he had cured so many patients afflicted like I was, so I thought his medicine might help me. I wrote to Dr. Pierce for advice, and he sent me a very encouraging letter in reply, advising me to take his 'Favorite Prescription' and 'Golden Medical Discovery' and his 'Pleasant Pellets.' I got two bottles and used these and felt much better. I sent and got six bottles more. After I had used four bottles I broke out all over in sores. I then quit taking the medicine and wrote to Dr. Pierce, and he advised me to still keep on taking his medicine. I did so, and soon found it to be a great medicine. I can now work all day and not feel tired at night. I can sleep all night and can eat anything I want at any time. I can walk and go anywhere I please. I feel better than I ever did. Can do all kinds of work in the house and outdoors, too. I am sorry I did not take Dr. Pierce's medicine when I first began to have poor health. I could have saved what I paid to humbugs. My friends say that I do not look like the same woman. When I commenced your medicine I only weighed one hundred pounds. Now I weigh one hundred and forty."

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THE TRAIN DISPATCHER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY J. REVEIRA.

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HE was a typical inventor. There was a painful wrinkle running horizontally across his brow, as though disappointment and he were close friends, and a double vertical wrinkle between the eyes that made you think of him as continually squinting through some intricate machinery, in search of a hitch or faulty gear that interfered with the motion. His hands were stubby and showed signs of hard work and frequent accidents. His age any one might have guessed; but it would have been no more than a guess.

He had already tried a hundred railroads, and was just about to try to bring this plan before the hundred and first when he fell in with Harry Jervis. How they happened to meet, I have forgotten, and it isn't important anyway, but I think it was during one of those fits of abstraction that used to take Harry when he was most in love. It was a curious predicament for a young man to find himself in, but it was a reality nevertheless, and one day he was sure that Agnes was his destiny, and the next that he could never go through the world without her cousin Rose by his side. I suppose the real explanation was that he was in love with neither, though he admired both immensely. At any rate, during these attacks his friends were not far wrong in regarding him as *non compos mentis*.

How else it was that he happened to be over on the East Side in a cheap sailor's hotel, I for one am not able to imagine. A violent altercation was taking place between the hotelkeeper, who was the bar-tender, on the one side, and an undersized man with the appearance of a struggling mechanic on the other. It was not strictly an altercation, either, for the landlord was doing all the talking, and threatening to masticate and digest his victim while the other was standing on the defensive with a supplicating look on his face.

"W'y didn't ye say ye hadn't any more money, an' leave w'en yer money give out," he roared, "instead o' beatin' a honest man out o' his board bill?"

"You see——"

"I don't see!"

"But——"

"Shut up!"

The small man relapsed into silence, rolling his eyes around the room in search of some promise of hope.

"Why don't ye talk?" roared the other, somewhat inconsistently.

"Why you see the reason I didn't leave so soon as money gave out was because of my invention. I was sure some one would take hold of it. Then I would have all the money I wanted. Why, man, I'll be rich yet! I'll have more money than I know what to do with! When my new railroad signal system, which does away entirely with all danger of collisions, is adopted by all the roads in this country and Europe, doing away with 95 per cent. of the telegraphing now necessary, and doing away also with the personal equation, the element of human fallibility, my income in royalties will be nearly $450,000 a year. I have figured it out carefully."

"Why didn't ye leave w'en yer money give out?" repeated the innkeeper, stubbornly and still unconvinced. "D'ye know w'at I'm goin' to do to ye? I'm goin' to break ye in two!"

Just at this point Harry Jervis interfered and paid the bill. The inventor was all gratitude. He insisted on exhibiting his wonderful railroad signal system, and his benefactor offered no objection whatever. Harry's weak point was mechanics, and from the moment he had heard its owner speak of it, he had determined to see the contrivance.

Up in the dingy little bedroom they examined the gear displayed on the smoothed surface of the bed. It consisted mostly of a large square board painted to represent a map, and connecting several toy cities was a miniature track of tiny steel rails. On this track rolled little wheeled blocks, carrying small electric motors. These were dummies representing trains. In order, the inventor explained, to apply the system to any road, a small copy of the road must be made like the one on the bed; the real railroad must be perfectly wired and each train provided with a special device for sending signals over the wires to the miniature track, and finally an electric battery must be added. Then whenever a train started over the real track, one of the little dummy blocks would start along the dummy track and keep moving while the train moved, stopping when it stopped, and always indicating just where it was in reality.

It took the enthusiastic father of the idea a full hour to explain all the beauties of his system, but when he had finished Harry was satisfied.

"Why don't you get some road to try it?" he asked.

"I have tried," returned the other plaintively, "but they laugh at me."

"Have you tried the Great Windward?"

"Yes, and was almost thrown out of the office."

"Who did you see?"

"Some awfully important man. He had a scar across his forehead and one eyelid that drooped."

Harry laughed.

"That was the reception clerk. He guards the president's office."

"I have talked to superintendents and managers, but never yet to a president," said the man with awe in his voice.

"Come on," said Harry, "we'll try them again."

The inventor asked no questions, but gathered his traps together and they sallied forth and took a car for down town. The clerks in the executive office on Broadway looked up in mild surprise as the president's son piloted a poorly-dressed man and a large package into the president's private office.

"Father, this is a man you will be interested in," said Harry, as the mighty one glanced up. "The president of the Great Windward," he added to the inventor. And then they got down to business.

The upshot of it all was that the fourth division of the Great Windward was wired from end to end, the trains were equipped with automatic signalling apparatus, and in the dispatcher's office on a large table lay a chart of the country from New York to Philadelphia. Over the tiny railroad that connected the cities the little dummy trains were slowly creeping. The dispatcher, a grizzled veteran, with an eye like an eagle and "a face like a dog," as the boys had it, was sitting at his table looking out into the night and cursing softly. The new system did away almost entirely with the multitudinous reports from the conductors of every train and at almost every important stop. The new machine reported for them, and showed him at a glance just where each train lay, in what direction it was going, and at what speed. If two trains drew too near to-

gether, either approaching each other or moving in the same direction, he could see it at a glance. But the scheme was new and he wasn't used to it. Therefore he swore.

Now and then he walked over and took a look at the chart and the moving dummies. The inventor stood there looking on too, watching every move, and rubbing his hands delightedly. The dispatcher looked at him and swore again. Then he walked down to the other end of the table and made some remark to Harry Jervis, but Harry at that moment was absorbed in his ever present problem of the two sweethearts and failed to notice. Just then the sounder called and the dispatcher went back to answer.

"President Jervis' private car with special, waiting at Holyoke. Put through to New York soon as possible."

It was an order for the dispatcher from the superintendent of division.

"Who is in the party?" an inquisitive operator called from down the line.

"President Jervis, daughter, Mary Jervis, and Rose Selby. Agnes Selby staying at Holyoke with grip," gossiped back the superintendent's operator.

"Your father, sister, and Rose Selby want to leave Holyoke," said the dispatcher rising and glancing over the chart.

"So?" said Harry, waking up for a moment.

"Yes. The 'Empress' leaves Jersey City in half a minute, but she can pass the special at Mt. Auburn."

He went back to his table and ordered the conductor of the special to start at once and side-track at Mt. Auburn within twenty minutes, until the Empress Express had passed on its way south. At that moment Harry saw the dummy representing the Express start from Jersey City. In another minute the dummy representing the special left the Holyoke station and started to meet it over the little rails, their creeping progress really indicating great bursts of speed from the iron monsters tearing along the actual railroad down in the state. It was just as though the watchers were far up above the world looking down on the road. The beauty of the arrangement even appealed to the cynical eye of the dispatcher. The inventor had come down to that end of the table and was watching the two trains. Harry leaned with his elbows on the chart and wondered whether it was the handsome, stately Agnes down there in the little circle representing Holyoke, or the pretty, petite Rose on the little train drawing away from Holyoke, that he loved.

Some minutes passed, and suddenly the dispatcher uttered an exclamation that is usually omitted in publication. The special had run onto the side track at Peters. "I told him to go on to Mt. Auburn," he shouted, springing to the telegraph key. Five minutes passed; the Empress still crept on toward the south. The dispatcher still stormed at the operator at Peters. Then something else happened that caused him to rip out an imprecation that ended in a howl. The special pulled out from Peters and started north again.

"The enchanted idiot," screamed the dispatcher, "he can't make the side-track at Mt. Auburn now, and there isn't another between the two places, nor a telegraph station to signal them. The operator at Mt. Auburn has quit by this time of night."

The operator at Peters answered just then and blandly informed the dispatcher that the north bound special was not stopping on his sidetrack.

The dispatcher ran back to the chart. The two trains were coming closer every instant. He thrust his hands into his hair and pulled with main strength.

"I hope you don't blame me," murmured the inventor. "It is not my fault, I assure you. The system is working beautifully."

The dispatcher turned on him without a word and knocked him down. Then he ran to the telegraph key again. A gong that had been contrived to ring when two dummies drew too near together now filled the room with an alarm. The inventor picked himself up and in doing so knocked over a table holding the dispatcher's lunch, and the things fell to the floor with a crash. At that instant the trains came together with a tiny splintering sound, reared, and fell upside down on the chart across the rails, while the little motors buzzed like escaping steam. Harry stood over the chart, holding the table with both hands, and face white as death itself. The dispatcher was leaning over his key sending orders everywhere. He called out the wrecking train from Peters with all the doctors that could be had, a special train from Holyoke with more doctors, and another from Jersey City with still more doctors. Then he cursed the entire division under the general O. S. call, shut the key, and dropping his head on his arms, cried.

"What's the matter with the old man?" inquired an operator somewhere down-toward Philadelphia.

"Cracked," answered the Peters operator.

"Screw loose," suggested the Holyoke office.

"Send Doctor Welsh to take charge of the dispatcher at once." It was the division superintendent talking to the down stairs New Jersey office.

"What's the matter with the old man? This is Jervis talking," answered the down stairs New Jersey office.

"That you, Mr. Jervis? This is the superintendent of the fourth division. The dispatcher thinks he has had a smash-up between your train and the Empress."

"She passed us at Mt. Auburn. We made Jersey City with that stop only."

The dispatcher raised his head. Footsteps were heard on the stairs and Dr. Welsh entered. He patted the dispatcher on the shoulder. "Not enough sleep lately!" he suggested. "Come, let's take a walk out in the fresh air."

"You blank blank blank!" shouted the dispatcher, ignoring the doctor and starting towards the inventor, who escaped by the door. Foiled in this the enraged man caught the table bearing the chart and the little trains, and wrenching loose all the electrical connections, jerked it over.

More footsteps sounded on the stairs and Mary Jervis said to some one back of her, "This is the room from which all the trains are controlled. We have a new—why what's the matter here?"

"How do you do Harry?" said Rose, following her friend into the room. "You look as though—oh—!"

It wasn't the sight of the overturned railroad. It was only Harry Jervis who had found out which one of the Selby girls he really loved.

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MY ST. CECELIA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ELLEN F. WYCKOFF.

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I T was in Florence that I saw the picture. A lovely blue eyed St. Cecelia with softly parted hair and calm, smiling lips. Looking at the face it became more than a picture to me. I loved it. Loved it all the more that my unreasoning passion could bring no change to the waiting beauty of the heaven-blue eyes.

I began to paint the face, giving it, in different pictures, the expressions that would come to a woman who lived and loved and suffered. I worshiped the picture; I studied it. The face, pure as an angel's, the queenly head, the graceful throat and perfect, exquisitely draped shoulders and the little dimpled hands lying on the organ keys.

An old man whose studio was near mine came sometimes to look at the pictures in the gallery. Once he stopped near me. I turned my canvas from him and he smiled.

"It is a beautiful face and a marvelous picture," he said. "It was painted by an American—a Southern man. Oscar Sinclare."

I started, but his eyes were on the picture. I wanted to ask him many questions, but he passed on, and that night a letter came calling me to New Orleans.

I had lived abroad since early boyhood. First with my mother and then alone. My uncle in New Orleans had died and I was his heir. So, without seeing the old artist again I left the city.

My father's sister met me in the fine old hall. I understood that the household was in no way to be changed except that I was to take my uncle's place as head of the house.

"I am glad to see you, Jack," my aunt said kindly. "I've gathered a houseful of lads and lassies to welcome you, for my brother expressly commanded it so. He desired your home coming to be bright with no shadow of his going resting upon it. To-morrow a whole bevy of pretty girl cousins are coming."

The old house was full of light and flowers and sweet odors and gay voices. It was late when at last I sat alone in the quaint parlor that had been my uncle's private sitting room.

"We supposed you'd want it, my dear boy. He loved it and you are so like him. It is a queer place, and not at all to my taste, but being an artist yourself you may fancy it," Aunty said as she kissed me good night and glanced deprecatingly about the room.

Yes, I should like it. I was like my uncle and he was said to be the counterpart of his father, the artist who had painted my St. Cecelia.

The room was very dimly lighted, but my eyes soon became accustomed to the soft glow and I was entranced by the weird beauty of the place. The walls and the carpet were black, and gleaming statuary filled the corners. Pictures and mirrors and shelves of books lined the walls. And at the farther end was a beautiful organ with tall, fluted pipes and beside it, in an alcove with a medallion set in the carved panel of its door, was a quaintly carved, curiously made case. My aunt had told me that the family lawyer kept the key to this case. She had no idea of its contents. It had been her father's and her brother had valued it, chiefly, she supposed, because of the medallion that was a copy of a picture in Florence, she believed. It was only the face with a frame of soft dark hair, but it was my Cecelia's face!

I was very tired and, throwing myself down upon an oriental couch at the end of the room opposite the organ, tried to rest. It was early summer and the tall, slender windows were open. Far below the sweet southern garden was all abloom and the faint night breeze coming from it, stirred the silken curtains at the windows.

Dreamily I lay there, a singular sense of physical comfort upon me. Slowly it came to me that the organ before me was like the one in the picture at Florence. I was too drowsily happy to feel surprise. I noticed, too, that the lights were arranged in such a way as to fall in soft radiance upon the front of the organ.

Then I closed my eyes, and gently, in low whispering cadences as soft as the swish of a sea wave when the air is still, or a ripple of the grass in a slow summer wind, there came to me a sound of music. I held my breath lest the fairy melody be lost. Even the stirring of an eyelid must disturb it. Like the sound of an æolian harp it grew, gently, imperceptibly as the grey of morning changes to glorious day, and then the place was athrob with divinest music.

With every sense I heard it. My whole being reveled in it. I sat up with wide open eyes, every nerve a-tingle with delight. And before the organ, her calm face raised to the light, sat my St. Cecelia!

I felt no surprise. The music was like her. It claimed my whole consciousness just as her picture did. I was happy and that was all. And then lower, softer grew the music, fainter, farther away until it melted into the sweet silence of the summer night.

After awhile something roused me. The wind was blowing. The light above the organ was flaring. I was alone in the room.

In the morning I went down to find a merry group gathered in the hall.

"Jack, this is Muriel Annesly. She is a distant cousin you know. I think you saw her once. Muriel, let me present Jack to you!" I turned to greet my cousin and stood face to face with my St. Cecelia! Last night's mystery was solved.

Aunty moved away and I held out my hand to take the one so timidly extended toward me. "Muriel, did she say? You are a veritable St. Cecelia." I said smiling.

"That was your uncle's name for me. Tell me why?" She raised her calm eyes to mine. Was there a place in these holy eyes for earthly passion?

"My uncle was fond of music; so am I," I ventured. There was no deepening of the pink in her cheek, no falling of the calm eyes.

Afterward Aunty said to me: "Muriel is considered a great beauty. An artist who saw her in New York last winter said she reminded him of a picture in a gallery at Florence. I meant to write you about it, but I always forgot. My father painted a picture that is there, you know. It is a portrait of Marie Winburn—a girl before an organ. Marie Winburn was my father's cousin and he loved her, but she died unmarried and her twin sister was Muriel's grandmother. They say Muriel is like her and I really see a likeness to the picture in the panel in my brother's parlor."

"It is very curious," I said.

"Yes, it is queer how faces belong to families and are handed down like jewels and heirlooms and——"

"Souls," I interrupted.

"Souls! It's well enough that you have quit those horrid old world countries. Souls! Our men have always been queer. You are not well Jack. Mr. Grille, the lawyer has arrived."

"He has the key to the case. I want it," I exclaimed. But when it was in my hand a singular reluctance to use it took possession of me. I slipped it on my watch chain and waited for a change of mood.

It seemed to me that Muriel was a peculiarly silent girl. Not stupid, certainly, and not exactly shy, but preoccupied and far away. She was my picture in warm flesh and blood, my St. Cecelia come to life, but she was cold and unapproachable. It seemed to me that she must feel the intensity of my love.

Each night I crept to the old parlor and listened to the music. She must not know, my timid sweetheart, that I heard. But one night I opened my eyes to find her standing beside me looking down with soft, pleading eyes. If only they were shyer eyes! But they were quite steady, and as she moved I saw a ring on her hand. A circlet of glowing red rubies.

I held out my arms and she drew back and disappeared among the shadows that clung to the walls of the room.

The house being full of young people, it was not easy to find Muriel alone, nor to keep her for more than a moment or so. I dared not speak to her of the music in the old parlor. She seemed so prettily unconscious. But it was a sort of bond between us, and I looked forward to it through each long, bright day.

One night I found her alone on the terrace and she consented to slip away with me to the shadowy old graveyard farther down the quaint, crooked street.

"I shall be able to show you most of the places where our people are buried," she said, as we crept through the jessamine hedge. Clinging closer to my arm she pointed to an old vault. Above it the jessamine flowers shone like white stars. The moonlit night was sweet with their perfume.

"In that vault lies Marie Winburn. A great beauty she was, and a belle in her day. She died young and they say she was laid away with a ring of rubies on her hand and that the woman who wore the rubies always loved the man who gave them to her. But somehow Marie's lover brought them too late. One of the old servants told me that the angels were calling her away and she had promised before her lover came with the ring. The angels took even her fair body to heaven, the old servant said, but I dare say it is crumbling there in the vault with the others. She was my grandmother's twin sister. Sometimes, do you know, I half believe the old story. It is a pretty fancy." She leaned forward, her face quite pale, her eyes dark.

"A ruby ring—you wear rubies."

"I? Oh, no. One wee pearl, and nothing more."

"If I could find a ring like this that Marie wore—if some how the ring, the very one, came to me and I should bring it to you?"

"I should love you," she said *simply, and* then the far away look vanished suddenly, she laughed softly and threw back her pretty head. "Really, we have lingered here too long. Your grandfather's romantic folly has taken hold of your brain. It was he who came so tardily with poor Marie's ruby ring."

"At least I shall not follow his example in that. You'll be waiting, Muriel—you won't promise——"

She laughed nervously. "Really your head is in a bad way, Jack."

"And is yours quite cool?"

"Quite. You have lived too long in those old world cities. I believe you belong to your grandfather's times. You see I'm a commonsense, *fin de siecle* maiden, with no romantic nonsense about me."

"And yet last night when you played for me—" I stopped, dismayed at my boldness.

"But it was not last night that I played," she said easily. "I will tonight, however, if you will come away from this gruesome place. You are keeping me away from the others."

"I want to. I should be doing that if you played for me."

"Not in the same way. Come. I shall try the old harp that was mended today."

"The organ—let's slip away to that," I ventured.

"Is there one? Your uncle had me taught, but I did not know that there was one in the house." She had broken off some clusters of the jessamine and white and sweet her face shone above the pure flowers. Watching her and dazed with the mystery I lost control of myself and catching her in my arms I poured out my love in a tempest of passion that frightened her.

She trembled and drew away from me. Then she laughed and said in a playful, nervous way:

"I must wait for the ring, Jack." And then very gravely: "I find no answer in my heart to what you have said to me." Then she turned away and I followed her.

The ring, the ruby ring. Yes, I must bring it to her. I seemed lost in this story. I would find the ring that was buried with the dust of Marie Winburn. A sort of fever burned in my veins.

I watched Muriel with her round white arms across the harp and her quiet, waiting face turned from me. I saw her again as I lay on my couch and she sat at the old organ. What could it mean?

"My darling," I called and she came to me, holding out her hand. I saw the red glow of the ruby ring. As I rose she floated away. Was I dreaming? My head felt dazed and queer.

Next day I went to Dupre, the sexton of the old church beyond the graveyard. He was old and full of histories of people who belonged to long gone generations.

"Where is the resting place of Marie Winburn?"

The old man pointed to the crumbling vault. "They say it is there—my father laid her there, but——"

"Open the vault, Dupre."

He hesitated, and then obeyed.

"It was there that she lay," he said. A crumbling coffin, entirely empty filled the space! Was I going mad?

In the evening I saw Muriel hovering about the quaintly carved case by the organ. When I crossed to her, she was gone. Somehow I thought of the key and nervously unlocked the door.

Shall I ever forget the sight that met my hor-

rified gaze? In the case fastened in a sitting posture was a strange, mummy-like figure, and on one of the bare, ghastly hands, shining like drops of human blood falling through the sunshine was a circlet of rubies set in dull gold!

I stood fascinated with horror. Then a singular coolness came upon me. I removed the ring and closed and locked the case. Ringing for a servant, I sent for old Dupre? And after I had tried the effect of gold as an antidote for curiosity, I bade him take the case secretly away and at once place it in the vault where Marie Winburn's coffin stood.

When he was gone I threw myself upon the couch. It was a sobbing, rain beaten night and the wind moaned at the casement like a creature seeking rest. Sharp flashes of lightning cut through the windy darkness and the earth shook with the sound of the thunder. Restless and troubled I went out upon the long balcony that ran below the west windows.

At the farther end of the balcony I saw a little wind blown figure and went quickly to it.

"Muriel!"

"Jack! I was so frightened and I meant to run this way to Aunty's room; the corridor is so dark!"

She nestled in my arms and clung to me. The touch of her little cold hands thrilled me. And there with the storm all about us and the warm summer rain sending splashes into our faces I slipped the ruby ring on her slender finger and claimed Muriel for my own.

"It is so safe here in your arms, Jack. And, yes, I love you," she said.

Then I drew her into the quaint old parlor and in the glow of the light above the old organ I saw the love light shining for me in her shy eyes.

We are in Florence again. They brought me here after that illness that seized me the night of the storm. But we were married at home, Muriel and I. And some day we are going back and—shall I tell Muriel the strange story of the ruby ring she wears?

A Sud'ra of the Fourth Caste.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FRANK H. SWEET.

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CHINAB was of the Sud'ra, or fourth grade, the lowest caste of Hindus; and worse, he was near of kin to the San'si, a low tribe of thieves; therefore when Chinab dropped his gaze or rubbed his face in the dust at the passing of a sardar, or head man, he grew pale and trembled, for did not a disgrace affect all kin to a far degree, even as an honor raised them?

It did not so much matter with Sid'ha or Zanim, the brothers, or with Ka'har, the dooly bearer, who was his father. They were like the rest of their kin, of the paoli type, with eyes which naturally sought the ground, and with shoulders bent forward as though making ready to acknowledge the approach of a Brahmin, or Munshi, or even of a Si-pa-hi or soldier. But with Chinab it was different. His eyes were rather of the straightforward than paoli type, and his square shoulders had an obstinate way of remaining square, even when forced forward by the presence of a head man. Ka'har wrung his hands and declared the boy's head was too far away from his feet, and Sid'ha and Zamin added maliciously that monkeys were that way, and that sometimes they hung with their heads downward.

But Chinab went on his way without comment or rejoinder, doing his work after the manner in which his eyes longed to see the world, squarely. Only he sometimes wondered what he would do were he of a caste whose gaze could rise instead of fall.

So it went on until the time of the Me'la, or great fair when Chinab was sixteen.

The first day the zail-dar of his village kept him at work in the banana fields, and the second he was sent to help the yam diggers who were working on the doab, a tract of land lying between two rivers where the soil was rich. But on the third day he was given permission to be absent from sunrise to sunset, and he started early for the Me'la, wearing his bright colored dho'ti and the arm ring of copper which the Sa-in had given him for good work. And fastened securely among the loose folds of his dho'ti were three pai'so, also given him by the Sa-in for his very own.

As his bare, dusky feet flew lightly along the road, the bright colored dho'ti and the three pai'sas, and the warm sunshine, made his heart very light, in spite of the fact that he was of the Sud'ra who should direct their gaze toward the ground. He forgot all that, and the San'si, and the future, and only realized that he was part of the general warmth and joyousness.

It was only when his upturned gaze caused him to almost run against a stately, slow-moving figure that he remembered his caste; and at the same moment he recognized with shrinking horror that the figure was that of his own Sa-lar or prince.

But yet another horror awaited him, for as his knees bent and his abashed gaze fell to the ground, he saw, scarcely more than a yard in front of the slow-moving figure, a reptile whose very name was synonymous of venom.

Thoughts come quick in moments of peril, and like a flash Chinab realized his own possibilities and limitations, and the possibilities of the high-caste Brahmin who was advancing so composedly to destruction. The prince was a man whose ideas were liberal, and whose public service in the past was an indication of even broader work to come. Such a man could be of immense value to the world, while he, Chinab, a despised atom of the fourth caste, and kin to the San'si, was but a disgrace, a blot, a shadow that would better give way to advancement. But he could not spring forward to arrest the progress of the prince, for the touch of Sud'ra would be more dreadful to the high caste Brahmin than even death by the reptile; and there was no time to call out, for even a delay which would allow of one more step forward might be fatal.

There was but one way and Chinab did not hesitate. Even as the foot of the Brahmin poised in the air, a lithe figure shot beneath it and fell prostrate upon the serpent. But it was too late for the foot to retreat. It descended and came in contact with the Sud'ra.

A low cry of horror escaped the prince; not at his escape from death, for he had not seen the serpent, but at the contact.

"Sud'ra," he gasped.

Chinab raised himself slightly, disclosing the serpent, whose head was clasped firmly in his hands.

"Mercy, Most High," he murmured. "Mercy for my presumption."

A quick look of comprehension flashed across the prince's face, in which was a curious mingling of relief and dismay.

"Sud'ra," he repeated.

"Yes, Most High, Chinab, son of Ka-har, Sud'ra and kin to the San'-si."

Chinab raised himself still higher and as he did so a sudden look of doubt came into his eyes, followed almost instantly by one of chagrin. The serpent was not writhing about his hands as it should be; instead, it was limp and apparently lifeless. A quick look caused him to drop it in disgust. The reptile was already dead, killed by some previous wayfarer. Again Chinab's face sought the dust.

"Destroy me, now, Most High," he implored. "It is my caste. It makes even my good intentions evil."

The prince's face had now regained its customary expression of composure and serenity.

"You meant well, Sud'ra," he said, reassuringly. Then, thoughtfully: "There is less defilement from the touch of the third caste than from the fourth. Sud'ra, are you fond of the soil?"

"Yes, Most High."

"It is well. I will give you land in the Ba'ri Do-ab, and a house and cultivating implements. Henceforth you will be an independent farmer, a Vais'ya, of the third caste."

Uncle Sam's Highest Mountain.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MOUNT McKinley in Alaska, the loftiest mountain in North America, which a party led by myself discovered last summer, will never be climbed," said Prof. George H. Eldridge, of the U. S. Geological Survey. "The ascent of it is a physical impossibility, though not on account of the rarefaction of the air. Mount Everest, in the Himalayas, will forever defy the mountain climber, simply by reason of its altitude—six and a half miles—which is far beyond the altitude where sufficient oxygen exists in the atmosphere to support human life. The same may be said of a few other peaks, the breathing limit being reached not much past four miles of elevation. Mount McKinley, however, is less than four miles in height.

"The trouble is that it is impossible to get within fifteen miles of Mount McKinley. I might almost say within thirty miles, inasmuch as nobody would attempt to overcome the stupendous difficulties of the first fifteen miles who knew what was to follow. The mountain is situated in the midst of a region almost indescribably rugged. Rugged, indeed, is a word hardly applicable, inasmuch as it gives no notion of the maze of frightful gorges, and of canyons thousands of feet in depth with vertical walls, by which all approaches to the mighty peak are barred. Nothing rivaling it in weird desolation and awesome majesty is to be found anywhere else that I know of.

"There is no way to bridge these canyons or to surmount the mighty precipices. They defy to-day, as they will ever set at defiance, the boldest mountaineer and the most highly skilled engineering expert. How literally this is true can be realized only by one who has gazed from a distance upon that labyrinth of rock masses, in the formation of which Nature seems to have played her most fantastic and imaginative pranks. For Mount McKinley is but the highest of a congeries of mountains, though very much the loftiest of the giant range to which it belongs.

"Mount McKinley is 20,500 feet high, the top of its sky-kissing peak being nearly four miles above the level of the sea. It is the highest bit of North America, surpassing Mount St. Elias in altitude by 2,490 feet. Prof. I. C. Russell, who, representing the National Geographic Society, succeeded in reaching a level of 14,500 feet on Mount St. Elias, estimated the height of its summit at 18,010 feet. At this reckoning, St. Elias is nearly 2500 feet taller than Mont Blanc, the topmost of the Alps. In the United States proper, Mount Whitney, in the Sierra Nevada, is highest, its measurement having been determined at 14,898 feet. Mount Rainier may fairly be called the finest mountain in this country; though only 14,525 feet high, it rises to that elevation within a few miles of the sea, producing, with its wonderful crown of snow and glaciers, a very impressive appearance.

"As for Mount McKinley, it has been fortified by Nature against invasions by explorers, who must always remain aloof and be content to gaze upon it from afar. It is defended by obstacles so tremendous that no man will ever be able to attack them successfully. One is at liberty merely to look upon it at a distance, across a multitude of chasms and interlaced gorges. Through the gorges run ever so many glaciers, some of them of enormous dimensions, which at intervals drop incalculable loads of ice into the yawning gulfs beneath. I myself have viewed there a hundred glaciers, all in sight at one time—mighty rivers of solid ice streaming down through channels in the sides of that mighty Alaskan range. The greatest of these glaciers is one of enormous size, which, in melting, forms an affluent of the Sushitna River.

"The Sushitna River is the largest stream that flows into Cook's Inlet, which is an immense bay on the south shore of Alaska. Mount McKinley may be most readily located geographically by describing it as situated about 150 miles to the north of Cook's Inlet. Although Mount McKinley does not stand isolated like Mount Rainier, it rises about 7000 feet above the highest of the neighboring mountains, and affords a most impressive spectacle. Of course, it is crowned with eternal snow, and its sides are seamed with chasms through which glaciers run down. Owing to the presence of so many glaciers, which are continually melting in the sun's rays and thus producing vapor, clouds are nearly always floating about the summit, thus obscuring the view of it. On this account, we were unsuccessful in our efforts to obtain a photograph of Mount McKinley. You must realize it, in imagination, as a peak of very irregular shape uplifted high above the line of a range of the most craggy and saw-shaped sierra in the world.

"I presume you are aware that the highest mountain ascent ever accomplished by man was made by W. M. Conway, who in 1892 reached the summit of Pioneer Peak, in the Himalayas—nearly 23,000 feet above sea-level. You will observe that this was not far from 2500 feet above the altitude of Mount McKinley; but, of course, we have no such elevations in North America as are to be found in the Eastern Hemisphere. Even in South America are to be found mountains which surpass Mount McKinley. For example, Mount Aconcagua, in Argentina, is 22,422 feet high, and it has been scaled. Until recently it was understood that Aconcagua was the topmost bit of real estate in the Western Hemisphere, but it is now asserted that it is surpassed in height by Illampi and Illimani, which uplift their snowy crests from the plateau of Titicaca. These twin monarchs of the Andes are reckoned at 24,000 and 25,000 feet respectively, though they have not been accurately measured."

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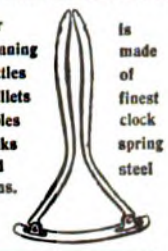


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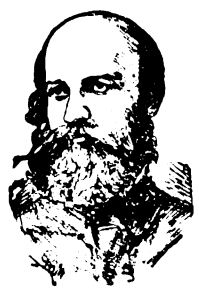


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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Maurus Jokai, the famous Hungarian novelist, is a strong illustration of the intense earnestness that seems to distinguish foreign writers. He has been for many years closely identified with the stormy political life of Hungary and his patriotism no less than his literary genius has made him the idol of the Hungarian nation. His genius is varied in its expression as he is a sculptor and painter of no small merit. He is also a naturalist, an astronomer and a gardener. He lives near Budapest during the summer and his rose garden is famous. At the age of seventy-four he still preaches a gospel of work by his indefatigable labor. He rises at six and writes almost constantly throughout the day. During his political life Jokai never abandoned active journalism and at the same time found time to write over two hundred books comprising romances, novellettes, short stories and a few dramas. Among the books that have been translated into English are Black Diamonds, Eyes Like the Sea, An Hungarian Nabob and the Nameless Castle. Jokai was left an orphan at the age of twelve. It was a struggle for him to complete a High School course of study but he succeeded and was finally admitted to the bar. He had little liking for the law and abandoned its practice for a literary career. He became editor of a newspaper and led an uprising to release from the fortress of Buda a newspaper man who had been imprisoned for his articles written in defense of Hungarian liberty.

From that time he was one of the leaders of Hungary's struggle against Austria for its ancient right. When the rebellion failed Jokai and his wife escaped in disguise and spent many months in a little hut hidden away in Northern Hungary. He finally gave up the idea of complete independence for Hungary and threw his influence into the compromise of 1867. For nearly forty years Maurus Jokai has been a member of the Hungarian parliament. Since 1896 he has been a member of the House of Lords which is a life office. He was selected to pronounce the funeral oration over the body of Kossuth as it lay in state at Budapest. The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his first book showed Jokai how near he was to the heart of the Hungarian people. Among his gifts were $80,000 and a hundred paintings representing scenes from his novels, painted by the leading artists of Hungary. It is hard to say whether it is his position in the world of politics or his position in the world of letters that has made Maurus Jokai the popular idol that he is to the Magyar nation.

The royal family of Belgium has been rather tragically conspicuous among the royalties. King Leopold is eccentric to the verge of insanity; the eldest daughter after making two continents ring with her escapades has been confined in a lunatic asylum at the command of the husband whom she deserted. The unfortunate Empress Charlotte of Mexico is the sister of King Leopold. The second daughter is the Crown Princess Stephanie of Austria. The Queen of Belgium by birth is a member of the unfortunate royal family of Austria. She is very popular in Belgium and is noted for her great devotion to all charitable matters. The queen has a great aversion to visiting Paris and although Brussels is but a few hours journey from the gay French capital the queen has been in French territory but once in a quarter of a century. In 1867 her only son the Duke Brabant died very suddenly. At that time it was believed that his death was the result of a political intrigue that aimed to make Belgium a part of France by removing the heir to the throne. The queen believed the tales that are now considered romance and has resolutely refused to set foot in French territory. Her married life has been notoriously unhappy but the queen has borne herself through all her trials like a high minded woman of principle. She is fond of horses and music. She is considered the best four in hand whip in Europe and rides as well as she drives. She has a thorough knowledge of the art of conjuring and can amuse a company as well as a professional. Her life shows the effort of a bright brave woman to find interests and occupations in the empty splendor of a saddened life.

Miss Melva Wilson is a young Ohio woman who has won recognition in New York. She has the versatile talent that marks so many of the successful women of the day. She writes stories, sketches and poems and illustrates them with great cleverness. She is a descendant of Revolutionary heroes and by birthright and natural instinct is intensely patriotic. Her most successful work is the statue of the Minute Man that now stands in Washington. It is valued at $30,000 and it is hoped that the government may be induced to purchase it. Miss Wilson obtained permission to work in one of the park buildings of Cincinnati and it was here that the Minute Man was modelled in clay. Prominent business men of the city took an interest in the work and a sum of money sufficient to make a plaster cast of the subject was raised. This cast was unveiled in Miss Wilson's western studio in the presence of President McKinley and a distinguished company of guests. Miss Wilson has also modelled "The Visitation of Saint Cecelia" and "Portia." Her work from ideal subjects is very successful but Miss Wilson has a leaning toward portrait busts. She has executed many orders for these and also for the portrait statuettes, that have become so popular with society women who can afford the luxury of seeing their features reproduced in marble.

The troubles in Samoa are to be adjusted by the members of the Samoan commission. The German member finds himself in a very delicate position but Baron Sternberg has had long experience in diplomatic science. He is a young man but for years has taken an active interest in Samoan affairs and is considered the best posted on the subject of any of the German diplomats. He first came to America in 1890 as military attache of the German Embassy. He is a broad shouldered, fair haired, blue eyed man who gains the confidence of all with whom he comes in contact. He has seen service in Peking and was Charge d' Affairs at Belgrade. About a year ago he came again to Washington as first secretary on the staff of the German minister. His election to serve on the commission is considered a great compliment.



"Our Lady of the Snows," as Kipling named our northern neighbor, has given a warm welcome to some of her adopted children. Lord Strathcona of Mount Royal, Canadian High Commissioner to London and multo millionaire is what Canada has made of a plain little Scotch lad. Donald Alexander Smith was born in Morayshire, Scotland nearly eighty years ago. The man who has given nearly $2,000,000 to Canadian universities received all his education in the schools of his native village. When a boy of eighteen he began the struggle of life in the service of the Hudson Bay Company. He came to Canada and for thirteen years his work kept him in the wild northern wastes of the Labrador coast. Then he was transferred to the Northwest. Slowly he rose from the position of a clerk to the head of the great company. He entered political life in 1869 as a special commissioner of the Canadian government to look into the causes of the Red River rebellion. His thorough acquaintance with northern British America made his services of more than ordinary value. He was soon after elected to a seat in the legislature of Manitoba, and later took a seat in the Dominion parliament which he retained until 1880. In 1887, he again sat in the parliament and on his retirement was made Lord High Commissioner to London. Lord Strathcona received his title in recognition of the value of his public services and benefactions. He advocated the Canadian Pacific railroad and this line was completed through his influence. Lord Strathcona has given liberally to the higher education of women. Fourteen years ago he gave $120,000 to found the Donald course for women at McGill University. He is now Chancellor of that widely known institution. He built, equipped and endowed the Royal Victoria College for women giving over $1,000,000 to this one project. He is President of the Bank of Montreal, and the gray old city is proud to claim Strathcona of Mount Royal as her son.

It is becoming more and more evident to thoughtful people that the problem of the future of the negro race must be worked out by the negroes themselves. Lynchings and riots are on the increase, but side by side with the shadows presented by the race problem are the lights that throw out such a figure as Mrs. Booker Washington and such a work as that of the Tuskegee Institute. This school has grown until it numbers over a thousand young negro men and women. It is in the widely known "black belt" of Alabama and its influence is slowly raising the mass of the people to higher standards of living and thinking. Booker Washington is known throughout the world and his wife is no less worthy of admiration for her share in the great work. Mrs. Washington is a native of Mississippi and was educated at the University. She visits the homes of her race within reach of Tuskegee Institute and carries the industrial work of the school into each house. With broom in hand she demonstrates the first simple lessons of cleanliness and industry. This same woman can instruct a thousand women of her race gathered in the same city to hear her speak. The trustees of the Slater fund have engaged Mr. and Mrs. Washington to speak during the next two years to the colored people of southern cities. The work at Tuskegee is not to be given up but the spare time is to be devoted to this missionary work. Mr. Washington addresses mass meetings of both sexes. He speaks in smaller meetings of teachers and ministers while Mrs. Washington speaks to the women. Mrs. Washington has a strong personality. She is gentle and refined in manners but terribly in earnest as to the future of her race. She represents the best possibility of the Southern negro. She knows the conditions of living and the difficulties in the way, but the missionary work she does shows in the vast influence that Tuskegee has over those who come under its instructions. Industrial education will solve much that is perplexing in the race problem.

Chang-Yi is sometimes called the "coming man" of China. He is chief director of the Chinese Engineering and Mining companies and assistant director of the Imperial Northern railways. He has become very wealthy but foreigners who have met the quiet mannered Oriental believe that his wealth has been honestly acquired. He is fifty years of age, of medium height with a face whose intelligence attracts immediate attention. He is said to be wholly without political ambition but to aim to be the Coal and Iron King of China. He does not speak English but his quick observation enables him to grasp ideas and the general drift of conversation by watching the expression. He often anticipates the explanations of the interpreter. He began his business life as contractor for imperial and public buildings and worked at Peking. He saved his money and invested it in banking. He gradually extended his business interests showing a clear hard-headed talent for practical affairs very unusual in the Flowery Kingdom. He has made every business enterprise with which he is connected yield large returns. Unlike Li-Hung-Chang, he says little, rarely asks questions but still obtains careful information before he acts. He has large executive ability but this has been directed solely to practical business affairs and never to any governmental work.

Prince Min Yong Whan is the new Corean minister to this country. He is closely connected with the royal family of Corea being a first cousin of the king. He sailed for this country in April. Prince Whan speaks English very fluently and stands very high in the esteem of foreigners as well as of native Coreans. He represented Corea as special ambassador at the brilliant ceremonies of the coronation of the Czar and served in a similar way at the Queen's Jubilee. He is not a stranger in Washington as he came here after the Jubilee and remained a year. His brother will be his first secretary as he also speaks good English.



Mary Lowe Dickenson is in many respects a perfect type of all that is best in American womanhood. Positive without being aggressive, gentle without being weak she has always been a leader and a teacher. She began her life work in a little country village in Massachusetts as the teacher of the village school. She was earnest, progressive and successful to a degree that attracted the attention of educators. She was soon called to the position of head assistant in one of the largest schools of Boston. From this school she went to the Hartford Female Seminary as an assistant principal. When Mary Lowe was twenty-four Vassar College was opened. Miss Lowe was discussed as the probable vice-principal of the new college for women, but she decided to accept an opportunity which offered a three years residence abroad. With a former pupil she spent this time in study and travel. She was just on the threshold of young womanhood and the effect of these three years upon her character was very marked. She returned to this country where she married Mr. Dickenson, who was a wealthy banker.

Her married life was very happy but her husband died and in less than two years after his death his entire fortune was lost. Mrs. Dickenson found herself again dependent upon her own resources and with undaunted courage she took up the work that she had left upon her marriage. Opportunities for usefulness soon presented themselves. Vassar, Wellesley, and the Universities of Denver and Southern California were among the prominent colleges that recognized Mrs. Dickenson's ability by naming her for a position. She finally decided to go to Denver which then had an attendance of more than a thousand men and women. For two years she gave of her best to the students under her care. Many an earnest man and woman to-day remembers with gratitude the inspiration that Mary Lowe Dickenson gave her pupils. She could not stand the climate and reluctantly gave up her congenial field, but the Chair of Literature named for her shows the appreciation of her work by the trustees of Denver University. Since then Mrs. Dickenson has been closely identified with many of the altruistic movements of the day. She organized and extended the International Order of the King's Daughters and has been the General Secretary since 1886. Mrs. Dickenson has been Secretary to the American Bible Society, President of the National Indian Association and of the National Council of Women. Her writings are well known. Both her prose and her poetry have been widely read, for they have the note of absolute sincerity and sympathy with human effort that has made Mary Lowe Dickenson what she is—an earnest, sympathetic woman whose life work has made the world better.

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Folk-tales of our Land.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NOW and then American writers have sketched in verse and prose a legend which has immortalized a few of our myths. But aside from Salem witchcraft, when we would identify superstitions with any spot of universal interest we look to the folk lore of Germany, Scandinavia, Russia or perhaps anywhere except at home, when of a truth our Great Lakes, Mississippi Valley and Hudson's banks are fairly lined with these tales of fact and fancy.

Longfellow sings the sad story of Evangeline Bellefontaine and Gabriel Lajeunesse, and tells us how John Alden wooed for another and won for himself. "Tales of the Way Side Inn" bring to view Portsmouth with Martha Hilton and Marblehead with Agnes Surriage.

Hawthorne carries us up Mt. Monroe in quest of the Great Carbuncle, and recalls the rigor of the Puritan governor who hacked down the May pole of Merry Mount. While Washington Irving and Joseph Jefferson introduce us to an ancestor of the Van Winkles of today, the hapless "Rip." But most creepy and uncanny of all comes Ichabod Crane with the galloping Hessian *en trail*. These are the most familiar of American folk-lore because our geniuses have so fascinatingly repeated them.

No race save the Roman has more superstitions than the American Indian, and safe to say no people left behind them so varied a quantity of stories in which we find the foundation of so many legends of more recent origin—one of the prettiest and best known of all is "Hiawatha." According to the Indians the world began when the snake bit off the two lumps of pipe stone, and these receiving life from the Great Spirit walked from the Minnesota Garden of Eden—the redman's Adam and Eve.

"Thundering water" as Niagara Falls was termed, asked for two victims each year. In 1670 or thereabouts the last sacrifice was made when the daughter of the chief of the Onondagas was launched in a white canoe bedecked with lilies and as she went over the falls her father jumped into his canoe and followed her to death. After this his spirit was converted into the ruler of the Cataract and hers to the Maid of the Mist.

The old French legend of the first jacqueminot rose undoubtedly had its origin in the Delaware Indian's story of the girl driven distracted by the death of her lover, who stabbed herself and where each drop of blood fell there sprang up the scarlet blossom commonly known as Indian plume.

Our pondlily's white and yellow is symbolic of the purity and love of an Indian maid who true to her own convictions drowned herself rather than yield to Sun, a young warrior whom she loved but who was betrothed to another. The tribe mourned her loss deeply and one day there appeared on the pond a group of lilies, which opened as the sun came and closed at night when the sun had gone. Thereafter the tribe worshiped the lily-form that the girl's spirit took.

The popular New Jersey mosquito claims for an ancestor the monster insect that ate a tribe of Indians at a single meal and used their ribs as toothpicks. It was, however, eventually killed and wherever its blood spattered there came to life the smaller mosquito which mingles pain with the pleasure of a summer twilight.

These and scores of other tales have been brought down through the ages. But while they are simply amusement for us we must not forget how real these tragedies seemed to the Redman whose gospel was the simplest solution of the mysterious—and after all, religious and scientific investigation has taught us no more of heaven than imagination pictured to our savage brother of the happy hunting grounds.

For one reason or another most New England legends follow the shore. Beginning with Maine it is said at Harpswell the fisherfolk are often startled by the appearance of the death ship, similar in appearance to the one Coleridge describes. His phantom vessel glides in and out of the harbor in the course of an evening bringing in its wake always death and disaster.

We must not overlook the ingenious Lewiston hermit who trapped the fifty Indians, causing them all to be drowned.

Deer Island was once in possession of one Swunksus who challenged an intruder to mortal combat. Unfortunately for him he forgot his engagement and having imbibed too heavily was killed in his sleep. And to this day summer visitors to the island claim they can hear him snore. Mount Katahdin secretly married a beautiful Indian girl by whom he had a son who later was chief of one of the most powerful tribes. According to some traditions Hiawatha left his marks among others at Bar Harbor where he flung to the ground a



"NIX'S MATE."

moose whose bones may still be seen there. Mt. Kineo was a moose of gigantic size which he turned into an elevation of land. On the Isles of Shoals can be seen dimly at night a pirate's wife who was left to guard a treasure.

Gallows Hill in Salem was the scene of all kinds of torture for witchcraft, sorcery and anything condemned as "blackart," and is to this day infested with roaming spirits. "Old Meg" lived in Gloucester until she died from a shot fired five hundred miles away. The story runs thus: Two Gloucester soldiers in the siege of Louisburg were troubled by a crow hovering around their heads. And finally they decided it could be no other than the spirit of Meg the witch. So cutting some silver buttons from their coats they fired them and killed the crow. It afterward appeared that old Meg had died at the identical hour and in the autopsy the self same buttons were taken from her flesh.

On a bit of an island off Swampscott shore (Egg Rock) were supposed to grow forget-me-nots of such power that nothing could separate lovers who possessed any of them. Once upon a time a boy started in a dory to gather some for his sweetheart, but a sudden storm arose as he was returning and he was washed ashore at the feet of his love with the forget-me-nots clasped tightly in his hand.

In Boston Harbor is all there is left of a twelve acre island where pirates were hanged.



NATURAL BRIDGE, VA.

Early in the 18th century a captain named Nix was murdered and his mate accused and convicted of the deed. As he went to the scaffold he called on God to prove his innocence by allowing the island to sink and the water cover it. And in the course of a noticeably short time, just that thing happened. Now only a black pyramid stands on the spot to mark the grave of Nix's mate.

In 1834 a skeleton with armor of Phœnician origin was exhumed at Fall River. This was in the locality where Capt. Kidd's treasure was supposed to have been buried. Longfellow has the viking in armor come to life and tell his own story. A captain cruising with his daughter, Judith, is overtaken by a terrific storm. He has lost his course, but the girl sees land. In the fury of the gale she does not hear her father continually asking her where? but finally he makes her hear "Point! Judith, point!" which she does just in time to save them from the reefs which sailors ever since have called Point Judith.

On the Potomac river are three rocks so similar in appearance that they have been named the three sisters and those who live near the shore declare "the sisters" always moan the night before a drowning or sea disaster. At Natural Bridge, Virginia, flows the lost river where all who have ever drank must return sooner or later.

The white mountain range is full of traditions. The Pilot range gets its name from a dog owned by the guide Willard who lost his way and was led by Pilot the dog safely to his own camp. Skinner's Cave was the haunt of a smuggler some of whose goods are supposed even now to be hidden there. Until very recently near Alton, Illinois, a curious relief made by Indians representing a monster called the man-eater could be seen on the bluffs. This was supposed by the natives to be a representation of a creature existing in the age when all animals flew, swam and crawled.

A pretty story is told of the origin of the white fish. A family were carried across a swollen stream by a crane who cautioned them not to touch his head, but curiosity got the better of the mother whom the crane tossed off as a punishment and the scattered brains on the rocks below took the form of the delicate white fish. Many descendants bear the crane as their token to this day.

Among other legends in Detroit comes to us the one about Marie Liebault, a non-believer who was convinced and converted through a wager with a pious old woman who appeared to her after death holding a white phosphorescent light in her hand. Then there's the tale of the Will-O' The Wisp that led the young girl to the marsh where she found and released her lover who was caught in the reeds and mire.

The natives of New Mexico believed that when Montezuma left earth he planted a tree saying that when that fell he should come back to earth and for years they kept watch until finally it fell and gathering on the house tops they looked eastward only to see the coming of the white man.

Soon after the first rails were laid in Colorado an old engineer named Edwards had a harrowing experience; as he was flying along he heard a whistle behind, and turning a curve he saw another engine on the same track drawing nearer and nearer. He pulled the throttle wide open and lunged ahead trusting fate to get him to the switch before the rear engine should overtake him, and just as he reached the side track along came the engine snowy white with a dough-faced creature peering wildly out and gesticulating frantically. We don't know what came next, but presume if the railroad company had not built a station at just that point, the phantom "flyer" might still be the terror of the western engineer.

Are Your Lungs Weak?

DANGER IS COMING.

To those who suffer in cold weather from cold hands and feet, blue lips and noses, chronic coughs, sore throats, catarrh, asthma, rheumatism, etc., **danger is coming.**

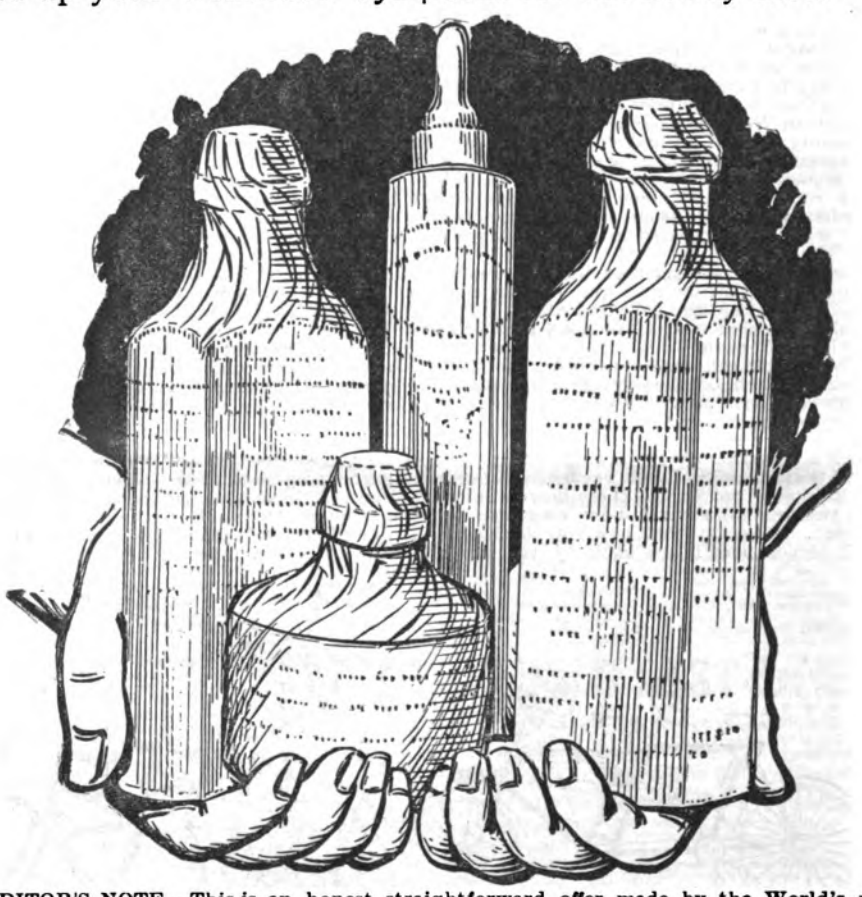
It comes in the guise of the germs of lung and other disease which if neglected, will surely and certainly lead to incurable, fatal consumption.

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EDITOR'S NOTE.—This is an honest straightforward offer made by the World's most famous Physician and all readers of COMFORT anxious regarding the health of themselves, children, relatives or friends, can have Four Free Preparations as represented in the above illustration, with complete directions, by sending full address to Dr. Slocum's Laboratory, New York City.

When Spain controlled the Southwest a regiment was sent from Santa Fe to carry a chest of gold for the soldiers in St. Augustine, and the entire regiment disappeared somewhere on the route as completely as though they had been swept away by supernatural power. Were they annihilated by the Indians? Did they sink in the quicksands; who can reveal? Not a trace of a single soldier has ever been found to tell the tale, and a stream bears the name of River of Lost Souls.

Finally, returning to domestic affairs, the "Baker's dozen," (which is surely a myth in these days) originated with one Van something or other, an Albany baker who suffered under a witch's curse until he consented to call thirteen a dozen.

This sketch is merely a breath of the tales reeking in blood and shrouded in mystery, that have been left for us to solve or exaggerate as we, too, hand them down. And as we emerge from the labyrinth of the romantic world is it not a relief to feel that no banshee can charm away our souls?

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GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

ALTHOUGH the bicycle did not prove of use in the "Yanko-Spanko," war, that does not prove that it is not a valuable adjunct to the soldier. General Miles says: "The results obtained under the most adverse and discouraging conditions prove conclusively that the bicycle will in the future become a most valuable auxiliary in the military operations, not only for courier service but also for rapidly moving organized bodies of men over the country." And under his direction the wheel was put to a series of vigorous tests. Despatch bearers have been sent broadcast from coast to coast and the Gulf to the border mounted on the silent steeds and whole companies of infantry have tried its advantages in field campaigns.

Many experiments have been conducted abroad with a view to establishing the bicycle's exact value and place, but so far not a single country has organized or equipped any considerable portion of its regular forces with the machine though almost all have a small number of men at each garrison who are practised in its use. In England a portion of the volunteer forces are organized as a bicycle detachment and are drilled as mounted infantry. They number about one hundred men and have a battalion organization. Their drill tactics, peculiar to themselves, would hardly receive the commendation of the professional soldier, as the principal features seem intended for spectacular effect and are of little practical value.

In a speech at the banquet of the League of American Wheelmen, General Miles is quoted as saying: "It is estimated that there are in this country a quarter of a million men who are accustomed to ride the bicycle. If out of that number 50,000 men were organized, it would make one of the most effective army corps that was ever marshaled in any country or at any time."

In England the cycle detachment mentioned before has a Gatling gun mounted on a platform placed between four machines, but this would be useless in front of a 4.3-inch breech-loading field piece.

The bicycle railroads are another proof of the onward march of the bicycle principle. Already they have proved profitable speculations on the seashore near New Brighton and on English seashore resorts. Rails are laid on the sands and on them bicycles run, but they are so fixed that no balancing is needed. Thousands of "trippers" patronized these bicycle railways last summer and several new ones are being started. It is said that, as a rule, the cost of each bicycle used is got back by the proprietors within a week, so the profits must be considerable.

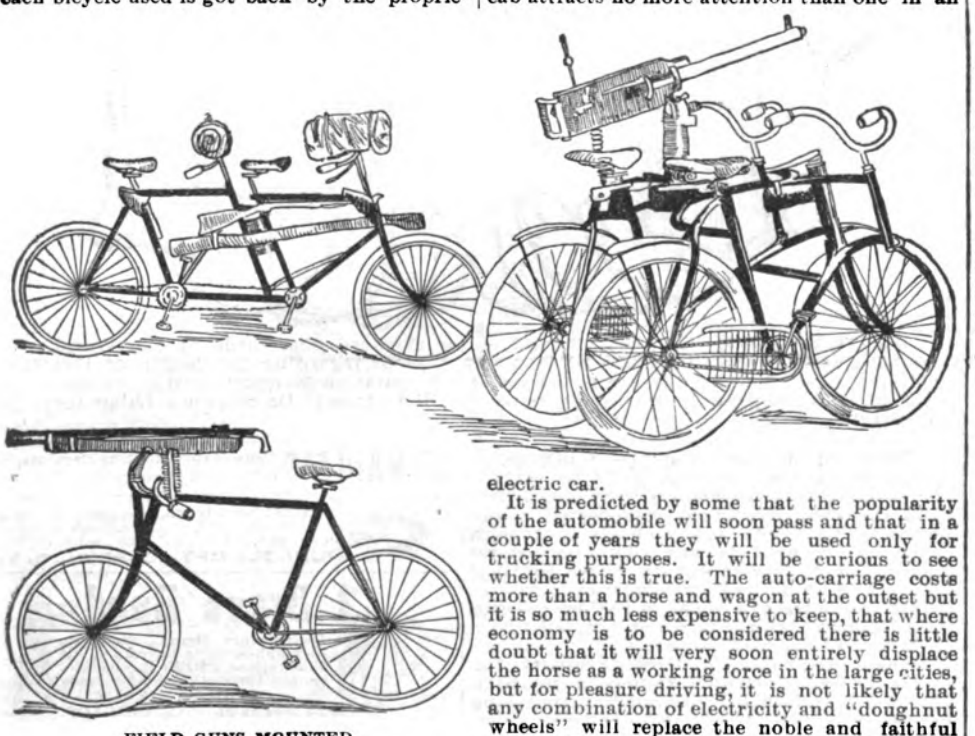
The "Boynton Bicycle Railway" was the first in this country. It is just being completed in Massachusetts. The cars are run on a single rail, safely guided and propelled by the overhead electric guide rail, which serves the purpose of electrical propulsion, as current conductor, a sort of third rail equivalent, as effective and much safer above than below trains. By leaning this upper guide on approaching curves under the patents granted, these trains round the sharpest curves by actual experiment at from 60 to 100 miles per hour without the least strain or danger, precisely as a bicycle is tilted, and the exquisitely light train is electrically propelled at any speed in a straight line. The inventor claims that he can connect New York and Boston in one hour. He says: "It will not do to tell the public that we can go as fast as a cannon ball or that 25 miles per minute will eventually be attained is my belief, as the possibility of specially constructed needle trains that I have patented, which at that speed would be entirely cushioned upon the air passing beneath their tapered front. The car runs between two steel girders, safely supported between two steel posts and side rails, and thus grooved above and below and surrounded, is as safe as a bullet while passing along the gun barrel. An accident is simply impossible, unless the structure breaks down, as the body of the car is grooved and would slide if the wheels above and below were broken. They are formed of malleable steel and are unbreakable. With electricity you start and stop as slowly as desired, while in the hundred miles or more of flight increasing force may be applied both above and below the train, so as to constantly accelerate the speed—unlike the cannon ball fired across the English Channel, where speed diminishes after the first impact of explosive force."

A new bicycle bell is coming into use, a perfected model of a signal that was used in the old days of the ordinary. It rings continuously by pressing a lever and is operated by a system of strings which when run down are wound by turning the upper half of the gong. This can be done while riding. A new tire bell is also in the market. Pulling a cord brings a wheel in the bell in contact with the front tire and the bell rings continuously until the pressure is removed. Another device is a nickle-plated cannon placed in front of the fork, which emits an ear-splitting squawk when a cord is pulled.

The question of using cycles in the service of the fire brigade has frequently been raised, but little progress has been made in England. Cycling fire extinguishers are, however, used a good deal on the Continent. Milan has cycles fitted with a hand pump and about eight feet of leather hose which is fitted inside the frame of the machine. Another useful idea, which is used at Amsterdam, is a tricycle with a lifeline worked with a sort of pistol, after the fashion of the coast guard's rocket apparatus. This life-saving apparatus reaches the scene of the fire sooner than the ordinary fire escape.

On the police force of several of our large cities bicycles are used instead of horses. Especially in the park systems is this innovation found useful as an officer can rush quickly to the scene of an accident or any disturbance that happens far away from him; in a crowded city street however, the bicycle is scarcely a proper adjunct to a policeman.

It is only a few months now since I wrote of the automobile in its different forms, and predicted that within a year we should see them in quite common use. I scarcely expected, however, they would be so speedily taken into favor in our large cities. In Boston, New York, Chicago and other great cities they have become too common to excite even a passing comment. There are auto-cab companies that run automobile cabs the same as herdics and ordinary cabs are run for a dollar an hour. When the electric cab first appeared everybody turned in their carseat or stopped on the street corner to gaze at them—often to the embarrassment of those who had been bold enough to patronize them. But that period quickly passed and today the rider in an automobile cab attracts no more attention than one in an



FIELD GUNS MOUNTED.

electric car.

It is predicted by some that the popularity of the automobile will soon pass and that in a couple of years they will be used only for trucking purposes. It will be curious to see whether this is true. The auto-carriage costs more than a horse and wagon at the outset but it is so much less expensive to keep, that where economy is to be considered there is little doubt that it will very soon entirely displace the horse as a working force in the large cities, but for pleasure driving, it is not likely that any combination of electricity and "doughnut wheels" will replace the noble and faithful equine friend of man. Besides, the auto. that "woman can drive" has not yet been built, and that is a consideration.

There are still some who claim that the automobile will replace the bicycle, but this is rank nonsense. I should not want to say the discoveries attendant upon its development may not lead to some new modifications of the wheel, but as for replacing it,—never! Those who have become attached to their bicycles—and there are several millions of bicycle riders—will not easily give up the pleasure of skimming along the country like a bird—or a scorcher!—for the more doubtful delight of riding in the cumbersome, ill-smelling automobile. For so long as the machinery is so complex and unweildy as now, both adjectives are appropriate. And the bicycle is safe.

It is estimated that there have been over a million bicycles sold this year alone, and in spite of the fact that fashionable ladies have rather lost their interest in them, bicycles are being ridden more by the fair sex than ever. In fact women have come to find so much of health and strength by riding the wheel that it will be long before they give up the bicycle—never, indeed, until something is invented that will be a great improvement over them.

Just what this will be is not yet revealed. A perfect means of locomotion would be the flying machine, so perfected that it would not be cumbrous or noisy, and probably somebody will yet succeed in attaching wings to a bicycle so that it will skim over the ground like a bird. Several inventors, indeed, have attempted this and failed. One man in Boston got up a wheel by which he could ride out upon the water and thought he would be able to supersede the pleasure boat. But alas! he was drowned on it, almost the first time he ventured out. Just as the Frenchman's horse at the moment when his master had accustomed him to live without eating, "up and died."

But somebody will arise yet, not only to perfect the flying-machine so that it will distance the automobile, but to make the bicycle king of them all, and more than ever a "thing of beauty and a joy forever."

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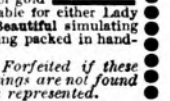
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OUR RECENT INVENTORY showed an accumulation of over 3,000 remnants of genuine imported English Cassimere and Scotch Cheviot cloths that cost $3.00, $5.00 and $6.00 a yard, in each of which there was just enough cloth to make a man's suit. **Expert cutters and skilled tailors have made these cloths up into sack suits** that are equal in every respect to our $18.00 and $25.00 made to order suits. They are **superbly lined** with extra heavy serge and Farmer satin, **elegantly piped** with genuine Skinner's satin, sewed with pure silk and linen thread and **fit to perfection.** They come in medium and dark shades, and in beautiful fancy mixtures and neat checks of handsome designs, new colorings and stylish patterns from the most famous looms in the world. Remember these cloths cost $3.00 to $6.00 a yard and were used in our $18.00 and $25.00 made to order suits. **Our price $5.95 don't cover the cost of the cloth alone, to say nothing of the tailoring, cutting and trimmings.**

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SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. with your height, weight, chest, waist and crotch measure; state whether you wish a medium or dark color, and if a check or fancy mixture is desired. We'll send the suit by express C.O.D. and **allow you to examine and try it on before you pay one cent.** If exactly as represented, the most wonderful value you ever saw, and equal to the $18.00 suits that others sell, then pay the express agent $5.95 and expressage and take the suit. **Pay nothing if unsatisfactory** and he will return it at our expense.

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At Last.
From Jest to Earnest.
Love and Fate.
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Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

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PNEUMATIC RAPID-FIRE RIFLE.



Here's One on the Pneumatic Plan for Just One Dollar, Made Entirely of Wood and Metal.

Stained and polished to represent mahogany, has all improvements, exposed metal parts, heavily plated. Same size as regular Carbine. Is designed for shot, which can be bought for a trifling expense anywhere. Works on the pneumatic spring scientific plan. Loads at Breech. Shoots with accuracy. Has the force and precision of any magazine gun. Can be used with perfect safety by men, women and children. No horrible accidents by careless handling. Kills birds and small game. Just right for hunting where silence is wanted. Brass tubes, air chamber, and heavy metal springs. Endorsed by officers of the Army and Navy as the best mechanical rifle ever produced. Used on practice ships in place of regular magazine rifles. Boys are delighted with it and prefer it to a larger gun. Can be kept in your room to protect the household if you dislike to have firearms around. Absolutely no danger. Perfect workmanship guaranteed in each gun. We will send this paper a year and this rifle complete and sent carefully packed for $1.00.

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RECENT PATENTS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



EACH month Uncle Sam grants about sixteen hundred patents to ingenious persons who have new ideas to offer, and in the collection there are always a number of very interesting suggestions, mechanical and otherwise. Naturally, a good many of the inventions thus placed on record are somewhat nonsensical, but even these cannot well be altogether absurd, inasmuch as a contrivance must at all events seem to be useful and practical before the examiners will accept it, with guarantee of exclusive rights to the originator. Indeed, the Patent Office may be said to be custodian of the record of the progress of the age, and its archives are illuminated by the creative thoughts of each succeeding generation.

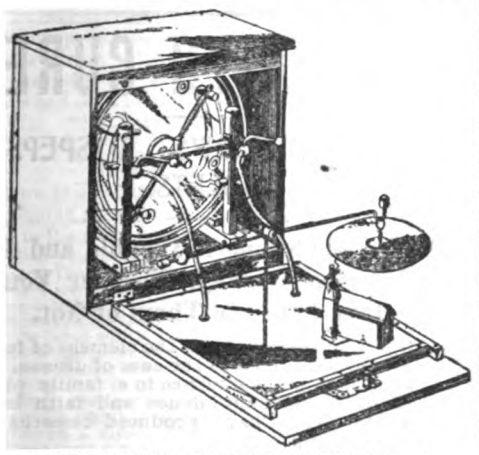
One of the notable inventions recently was a process for manufacturing artificial fur, devised by George R. Sheville, of New York City. The idea of it is to produce at small cost a material closely resembling animal fur, with a backing of woven cloth, and this is accomplished in a very simple way—namely, by placing a loose mass of animal hair, or down, close up against the mechanism that forms the web of the cloth, so that into each loop of the fabric a small quantity of hair or downy filaments is taken. The thread that weaves the cloth works through the hair or down, so that the latter is incorporated with the resulting textile. Then the cloth is shrunk, so as to bind the filaments tightly in its meshes, and the final product is an exquisite fur-like stuff, which may be fur of eiderdown, fur of lambs' wool, or fur of what one pleases, the process furnishing at a cheap rate exquisite materials for garments or what not.



ARTIFICIAL FUR.

An inventor named West Dodd, of Des Moines, Iowa, has patented an apparatus for imitating thunder and lightning with real electricity. It is portable, and, when opened out by throwing down the front of its leather case, it reveals a miniature landscape, in which the principal feature is a small wooden church. Above the sacred edifice hangs an ominous artificial cloud, in the shape of a disc of zinc, and this is connected by a wire with an electric generator which occupies the body of the leather case. When a crank is turned, the destructive fluid is discharged from the zinc cloud upon the church, and would rip the latter to pieces, were it not protected by a lightning-rod. When the rod is disconnected, damage results. As the reader will already have surmised, this contrivance is intended to be carried about by lightning rod agents, who by its help will be enabled to bring conviction to the mind of the most reluctant customer.

Women have a great deal of trouble in drying



THUNDER AND LIGHTNING APPARATUS.

their hair, when they wash it, and those who possess luxuriant tresses occasionally threaten to cut them off on this account. It is one of the reasons why the average man is not ambitious to be a woman; but this feeling may be done away with by a patent hair dryer just devised by John W. Hillerman, of Lyons, Kas. It consists of a sort of metal box, into which the lady inserts her head, while she sits in a chair for the purpose. The box is elevated on a stand behind her, and she reclines in an easy pose while subjecting her hair to the drying influence of a sort of stove concealed in the apparatus and heated by an oil lamp. Persons of the gentler sex who hang their "glory" on the gas fixture when retiring will have little use for this mode of procedure.

Strength of the fingers and long reach between thumb and little finger are greatly desired by learners on the piano, and these desiderata are aimed at by two new inventions. One of them is a socalled "hand extender," patented by Frederick L. Crane, of Malden, Mass. It consists of a screw about a foot in length, on which are fixed two loops, one to hold the little finger and the other for the thumb. By turning the screw, the distance between thumb and little finger is increased, and the process, often repeated, stretches the hand, so as to render it capable of covering more keys. As an adjunct to this apparatus may be employed the finger strengthening machine

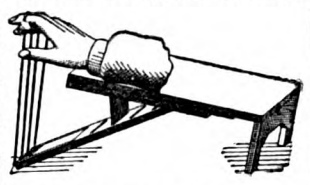


HAIR DRYER.

invented by Walter Bowney, of Utica, N. Y. It consists, mainly, of a sort of inclined plane, on which one rests the arm, while the fingers, inserted in loops at the ends of four elastic cords, are worked up and down and thus exercised by overcoming the resistance of the india-rubber.

Mosquito canopies are always a bore, and the thanks of a grateful public will go out to Thomas J. Powers, of Steubenville, O., who has contrived a wire apparatus of this sort for bedsteads, which when one is ready to seek repose in the arms of Morpheus, folds down and encloses one in a mosquito-proof box. There is no trouble about mosquitoes crawling up underneath the bar, or making their way through meshes that happen to be extra large. The apparatus is warranted to keep them out absolutely, so that the sleeper may compose himself regardless of the midnight song, and in the morning he has simply to unfold the apparatus by a jerk or two and step forth.

For country fairs particularly is designed a new style of popcorn popper, invented by Solomon C. Brinserr, of Middletown, Pa. It will pop several bushels of the grain at once, without burning so much as a kernel, a special contrivance keeping the corn agitated. Power is furnished by a belt, and the whole affair is said to be very inexpensive.

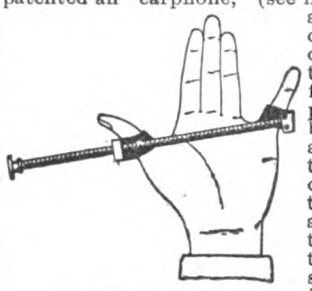


FINGER STRENGTHENER.

For farmers' use is a novel contrivance in the way of an egg tester, which is a box having a mirror for its bottom and two oval holes in its top for eggs to be placed in. The reflected light thrown upward by the glass causes the eggs to appear clearly translucent if they are fresh, while, if otherwise, they will be more or less opaque. This, it should be explained, is the invention of Carl H. Anderson, of Kenosha, Wis.

Nowadays people live so fast that they have hardly time to die, much less to be buried, and therefore a boon is bestowed by the invention of James Paugh, of La Grange, Ky., which has for its object the filling of graves and the making of neat mounds over them by machine. No sooner is the defunct safely lowered than the hole in the ground is filled in, and the mortuary decencies are made complete, without a minute's annoying delay. This device is supplemented by what is termed an "imitation gravestone," originated by Hugh Campbell of Manchester, N. H. It looks like marble, but in reality is a shell of iron, so as to be comparatively cheap. If desired, a photograph of the dear departed may be inserted in a frame in the front, just below the inscription.

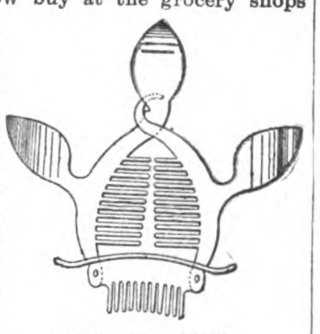
Frank H. Collins, of Everett, Mass., has just patented an "earphone," (see initial) which is an application of the principle of the telephone to a contrivance for helping deaf people. A small battery and coil are carried in the breast pocket of the coat, and the transmitter attached thereto is hitched to the lapel of the same garment, just like an eyeglass. When the deaf man desires to listen to anybody's conversation, he simply hands the transmitter to the person and gives his attention, a supplementary pair of wires connecting the battery with a little instrument which hangs over the rim of the ear and enters its orifice. Recently, by the way, a man named Henderson has made a discovery which seems likely to prove a remedy even for total deafness, a telephonic system being employed. He got his suggestion from the use by telephone girls of apparatus fixed to their heads.



HAND STRETCHER.

The woes of the women who cannot keep their back hair together have inspired an invention of which Robert F. Tochtermann, of London, is the author. He has newly patented the device in this country. It is a very complicated comb, which holds up the coil, retains the shorter hairs of the neck, and performs other offices of the same kind, so that no lady provided with one of these ornamental appliances need feel nervous lest the loss of a switch, the exposure of a rat, or the coming undone of an accidental curl cause her embarrassment. In a word, her coiffure, thus protected, will never come to look like a last year's bird's nest—which reminds one of a novel style of hen's nest patented by Arthur D. Worley, of Iron Hill, Md., whose contrivance closes the entrance to Biddy's bed when she is "on," thus keeping other hens from intruding or laying eggs beneath her when she is setting.

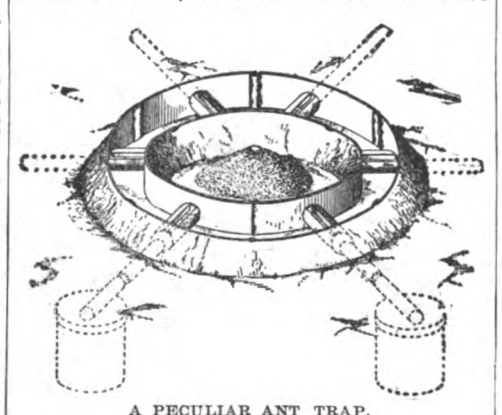
Machines have been made recently for cracking nuts with such ease and accuracy that anybody may now buy at the grocery shops pecans and other nuts, ready shelled, at about the same price per pound of kernels as is charged for the kernels contained in the unshelled article. One of these machines was patented recently by Julian Prade, of Waco, Texas—the great pecan growing State.



A USEFUL COMB.

Nathan O. Bond, of Hyannis, Mass., has invented an automatic egg boiler, which, by the aid of a spring catch adjusted in connection with a clockwork mechanism, pulls the eggs out of the water when they are cooked. Within a comparatively short time butter packages, somewhat similar in idea to the familiar pasteboard egg crates, have come into use, and the latest of these is the idea of John W. Barnes, of Mt. Gilead, Ohio. The butter crate is made up of a series of pasteboard compartments, each holding exactly one pound. Thus there is no lumping of the product in transit, and on its arrival at the market, it is in condition to be sold without cutting, each pound piece being done up neatly in a piece of cheesecloth.

Lastly, among the inventions of the month just passed, may be mentioned a peculiar ant trap contrived by Bogan B. Cash, of Wayland, Tex. Everybody, and particularly every housewife, knows how annoying ants sometimes make themselves, and hence the interest attaching to this peculiar form of snare. As shown in the picture, it is placed so as to encircle an anthill, the owners of which are to be



A PECULIAR ANT TRAP.

destroyed. The insects are led by tubes, in the manner indicated in the drawing, from the nest into tin cans sunk in the ground, which are partly filled with kerosene, and in this manner they are wiped out wholesale.

$2,000 PAINTING FOR 10 CTS.

A Beautiful Reproduction in ALL the Colors of the Original

THE PICTURE.

Last spring we purchased for **$2,000.00** the **noted** oil painting entitled **"Unexpected Trouble,"** or **"The First Swim,"** by Fred Morgan, Esq., of the British Royal Academy. The **size** of the original canvas is **31 1-2** by **42 1-2** inches. A corps of artists have prepared a reproduction of this noted work in **exact** imitation of the original, **every color** and **shade of color** being **faithfully reproduced.** As a result, we can offer an **exact reproduction** of this noted painting in a size **19** by **25** inches, printed on **heavy coated paper.** A great many cheap reproductions of works of art have been scattered over the country. This, however, is not of this character. In addition to the original outlay we have incurred an immense expense in securing this reproduction, and we have no hesitation whatever, in recommending it most highly.

THE THEME.

In the foreground is an old hen greatly excited because she cannot swim after her foster brood of ducklings. Gleefully watching the predicament of the hen is a little child held up by a doting grandmother. The whole picture is full of life, and appeals to every one at first sight.



Copyright, 1898, George S. Graves. **Actual Size, 19x25 inches.**

"Unexpected Trouble."

The Wonderful $2,000 Oil Painting by the Noted English Artist, Fred Morgan.

THE ARTIST.

The original painting is by the eminent English painter, Mr. Fred Morgan, who is considered the most perfect delineator of children now living.

Following is a letter from Mr. Morgan, to whom one of the reproductions was submitted:

MONTROSE VILLA,
ST. BONIFACE ROAD,
VENTNOR, Aug. 16, '98.

"It is a most admirable copy of my original, quite one of the most satisfactory reproductions I have ever had, giving the exact drawing and color, and almost the touches of the brush. In some senses too faithful, as it brings to my memory the difficulties of getting the baby boy to pose, and the worry of the ducklings.

"The incident was years ago, when I was a child in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, justly celebrated for its ducks and butter. I used to see the henwife bring the young ducks as soon as hatched and toss them into the farm pond, and as the scene interested me then I thought it worth reproducing.

"The greater part of my life has been passed in the country, and all of my pictures are of domestic scenes in the open air.

"Yours faithfully,
"FRED MORGAN."

AN UNPRECEDENTED OFFER.

FARM AND HOME, our National semi-monthly, already has a **circulation of nearly 300,000.** We wish to treble this number before January 1st, next, as we have determined to start 1900 with **at least 1,000,000 circulation.** We therefore make the following offer:

"UNEXPECTED TROUBLE," a beautiful colored picture, worth at least $1.00
FARM AND HOME to Jan. 1st., 1900 (regular subscription price 50 cts. per year) .15
(We thus **give** you **$1.05**) **Total, $1.15**

BOTH FOR ONLY 10 CENTS.

HOW WE DO IT. We lose heavily at first on every one who accepts this offer. While our present **loss is your gain,** we have every confidence that **you will be so pleased** with Farm and Home that you will become a **permanent subscriber,** and to accomplish this, we are willing to lose by your acceptance of this unprecedented offer now. Not necessary to write a letter. Slip 10 cts. into an envelope with your name and address, mail it to us, we will do the rest.

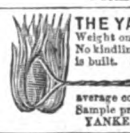
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We recommend the above firm as reliable.—Editor.



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with chain is a great comfort to any mother and a neat and pretty affair for the child to wear, these **gold plated Dress Pin Sets** are being sold at Jewelry stores for 50c. each, but being anxious to introduce our monthly into new homes we bought several thousand sets of these fine chain pins and will send one set free to all who enclose 17c. for a special trial six months' subscription to "COMFORT." Two sets and a year's subscription for 25c. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Me.**

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A New and Quick Method of Learning to Play the Piano or Organ Without a Teacher.

There have been many so called easy methods and charts devised, but this is the latest and best. It is intended for those who have not the time to take lessons. A complete self-instructor, enabling anyone to play the piano or organ **at sight.** This chart is the practical result of years of study by a noted American composer and musician. With this chart anyone can become an expert pianist, playing accompaniments to the most difficult songs at sight, as well as dance music, marches, etc. These charts are valuable to the advanced musician as well as to the beginner, embracing nearly every major and minor chord used in music. It is the most comprehensive yet simplest chart ever published, and is endorsed by teachers and musicians everywhere.

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AFFAIRS IN OUR COLONIES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

AS the rainy season is at its height in the Philippines, there has been but little action on the part of our soldiers for the past month, but still once in a while the Filipino insurgents make an outbreak and compel a short fight, which invariably results in their retreat leaving a number of dead behind them. Generally these attacks have been on small garrison towns where our soldiers are encamped and are in the nature of surprises. Even if successful, these movements would serve for nothing excepting possibly to encourage the natives and possibly give the insurgents some much needed supplies. Fighting excepting in a guerilla style in the jungle is out of the question at this season.

Notwithstanding this comparative quiet and practical cessation of active hostilities, many events have transpired in the past month of more or less importance and interest in connection with our present foreign policy, which will be read with interest by the readers of COMFORT, who have signified so much pleasure in these brief articles which have appeared regularly since the commencement of our war with Spain.

The most noticeable act of the past month was the resignation of Gen. Russell A. Alger, as Secretary of War. When Gen. Alger was appointed to the cabinet position which he has occupied, the thought of a foreign war was not in any mind. It will be remembered that he was a soldier of the Civil war and had risen to a commanding position. After leaving the army he became one of the lumber kings of the northwest and from his home in Detroit, Mich. entered into many successful business enterprises. He has served as governor and was a strong candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency in two national conventions. In Detroit he is known as a very able and very philanthropic man.



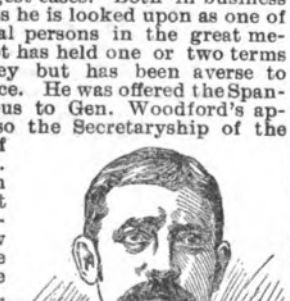
GEN. RUSSELL A. ALGER.

Whatever may have been the cause, the war department was found full of incompetency, when actual hostilities broke out, and many scandals of greater or less magnitude were printed by the newspapers in exaggerated form. While by no means an excitable people, Americans are fond of sensations; and overlooking the wonderful fact of a totally unprepared country rushed into a needless war and successfully putting an army of 300,000 fully equipped and drilled men into the field in less than three months, they magnified the shortcomings. In such cases the blame naturally falls on the head officer, and Gen. Alger, in spite of his great successes and his exertions has been singled out as the cause for all disaster. As a consequence his position in the popular estimation has been that of an incompetent and weak man stubbornly holding to a place for which he was incompetent. Undoubtedly this has been much exaggerated and that the sins of others have been laid to him; that he has been the "scapegoat," but it is impossible that his resignation should not be a relief to the administration, on which he had become a serious load, as well as to the people generally, who had come to blame him personally for each and every fault of army administration.

The press quite generally through the country had loudly demanded Alger's resignation. So there was no great surprise after many reports and denials of his intention to resign, when it was ascertained that he had gone to the coast of New Jersey to consult with the Vice President concerning the matter. Many stories have been told as to what took place upon his return to Washington. The current belief is that he asked the President to make a public statement that his administration had been satisfactory, and upon a refusal he had tendered his resignation to take effect at the President's pleasure. One thing that recently added to the strained relation was an alliance in Michigan politics between Gov. Pingree, an avowed enemy of President McKinley, and the war secretary for the purpose of electing the United States senator to succeed McMillan.

This resignation which was immediately accepted to take effect August 1, caused quite a general call that the place be given to Governor Roosevelt of New York, as a man capable of reforming the war bureau; but the President selected for the high honor Elihu Root of New York City and the appointment met with general approval by all but the "yellow" papers, which are pleased with nothing.

Secretary Root was born in 1845, and is the son of a then professor of mathematics in Hamilton college. He is one of the most celebrated lawyers of the American bar and has appeared in some of the largest cases. Both in business and social interests he is looked upon as one of the most influential persons in the great metropolis. Mr. Root has held one or two terms as district attorney but has been averse to holding public office. He was offered the Spanish mission previous to Gen. Woodford's appointment and also the Secretaryship of the Interior, both of which he declined. It was only on great pressure that he consented to accept what is now considered the most responsible seat in the Cabinet. Secretary Root is an enthusiastic outdoor sportsman and is noted for extreme affability in manner and address. As many difficult legal problems will confront the administration in the government of our colonies, and as they come under the direction of the Secretary of War until Congress shall decide otherwise, it is believed the right man is now in the right place.



SECRETARY ELIHU ROOT.

Much interest attaches itself to the career of Joseph Wheeler, the noted Confederate general who left his seat in Congress to join the army in Cuba, and who was appointed a General of cavalry by President McKinley. The return of the soldiers from Cuba brought his military services to a close for the time being; but with the increase of the volunteer army now going on, his services came into immediate requisition and to the general delight of the country he was given orders to report for active duty to Gen. Otis at Manila. He left immediately for San Francisco from whence he sailed for the seat of war by first steamer. Wherever he may go we may be sure to hear of good, hard fighting.

Before sailing he gave utterance to a public statement which has commanded the highest attention, partly from the fact that it accords with the general sentiment, but more from the prominent position he holds as a former confederate leader and a politician whose party is opposed to the present administration. In his statement General Wheeler said that he was gratified to find that the sentiment here was apparently unanimous of sustaining the course of the administration in the Philippines.

In the East, he said, there was a small faction opposed to the government and work of its writers and speakers had undoubtedly prolonged the war. Although these people are few in numbers, they are capable of much mischief. In fact, Aguinaldo has already, in an address to his followers, made capital to this apparent discontent with the conduct of the campaign.

"This is a people's war," added the general, "more a people's war than any other in the history of this country. The people are behind the president and want the contest carried to its logical conclusion. I hope for active service in the Philippines, but have not yet been assigned to any particular duty. My orders are simply to report to Major-General Otis at Manila."

As many of the volunteer regiments are now returning to the Pacific coast and are received with great enthusiasm, it is, perhaps, the proper place to call notice to the attention which is being paid General Otis by the newspaper press. The returning soldiers are full of criticism as to his methods, claiming that he fights, wins, and then gives up; and that under such leadership it will take 20 years to capture the islands. These and many other criticisms have been made. Unfortunately for him just as the air was full of these criticisms several reputable correspondents of the largest papers signed a "round robin" charging him with suppression and falsification of news and of a general plan to deceive our people as to the real condition. This was telegraphed from Hong Kong. Its publication caused a half panic which quickly subsided but has left the people in a state of anxiety, while part of the press calls for another general and more decisive measure.

The returning soldiers praise Gen. Lawton without stint and it is believed that should a change become necessary either Gen. Miles will assume charge or Lawton will be appointed to the Philippine command. Many feel that Gen. Otis could be made Governor of the Islands; and that Lawton could have a successful military command without harm to Otis' reputation. The successful military career of Gen. Lawton is so well known by the public that we refrain from repeating it here.



GENERAL LAWTON.

The country is taking the deepest interest in the new regiments of volunteers now being formed to take the place of the returning soldiers and to reinforce Gen. Otis.

These regiments are raised at various recruiting points and organized at some of the larger camps. They do not have state names but the regimental numbers follow those of the regiments of the old regular army in consecutive order. The officers for these regiments are taken by the President from those that have seen service and whose records entitle them to the distinction. The criticism thrown at young officers in the Spanish war of appointment solely as a political favor cannot exist. Commissions are dealt out only to those apparently worthy and the surprises show that they seem to be given strictly on merit. The higher officers will be detailed from the old regiments of the regular army to considerable extent.

For many years there have been efforts made to induce our American government to connect the continent with Hawaii, but Congress has never been ready to appropriate sufficient money for the purpose. The developments of our Spanish war, The Samoan rebellion and other matters have shown the necessity of quicker communication between the islands of the Southern Pacific ocean and other civilized lands; so that the British government has taken measures to push forward the great enterprise of laying the first long cable in the Pacific.

The survey steamer Egeria arrived in Esquimault, B. C., in the earlier part of July having completed her work of surveying and sounding for the proposed cable. The English and Canadian governments working together will lay this wire from British Columbia to Australia, touching on the way both the Hawaiian and Samoan groups. It was felt to be desirable to take a few more soundings; accordingly the steamer soon left on an outward trip to Honolulu and Apia, from thence to sound to the nearest safe point in Australia. The final survey having been taken the work of laying the cable itself will be rushed forward. While it would be better to have this wire under our own government, the situation, with quick communication established, will be vastly improved.

The commission returning from Samoa shows that everything has worked harmoniously there. The three nations involved have agreed to abolish a native kingship and it is probable that there will be a native government, carried on under the direction of a commission or governor, not a native. It is hoped that future rebellions have been prevented and that a stable government will be established. Recognizing America as a power with great interests in the Pacific, both the British and German governments seem anxious for us to assume the control of the Samoan group, practically leaving them to us; but so far as it appears the general sentiment of the press is not in favor of further acquisitions until we have Americanized what territory has come to us during the past year. A thing which had not been previously thought of now appears in the announcement that it is found that the cession of the Philippine Islands brings to the general government as spoils some 35,000,000 acres of public land largely inhabited, but fertile and often desirable. There will have to be a homestead scheme to mee tthe conditions as the standing laws are not applicable. To encourage colonization the usual period of five years actual cultivation now necessary to ownership may be reduced to three or even two years. It is hoped that negro emigration may follow and secure the happiness of a large number of black men now in our southern states. It is thought the negro's knowledge of advanced modern agriculture will largely assist in lifting up the Malay agriculturalists.

The convention at The Hague which was called at the instance of the Czar of Russia for consideration of the Czar's suggestion that increase of military forces in any nation should now stop and gradual disarmament commence, has at length dissolved. The convention has been a very successful one and has been instructive to the world in showing the advanced attitude of modern civilization towards the matters concerning universal peace. Of course actual disarmament is at present impossible, but the work of this world's convention which has been signed by all the powers in the convention has placed arbitration of quarrels very much to the front. A permanent tribunal has been suggested and agreed to by which, without intervening, the powers will offer friendly services and mediate quarrels before the two contending nations shall resort finally to arms.

Many additional matters were brought up relative to the safety to individual property when on the high seas in time of war; the workings of the Geneva Red Cross, and many other things which have been taught by civilization and are in the line of progress and enlightenment.

Many of our readers have seen notices of the advanced position of England and America which has brought very much criticism upon them by the press of other nations relative to the refusal of either of these nations to be in any way bound by a decree which was sought to be established by this convention, concerning the suppression of further warlike inventions, and especially of the dum-dum bullet. Regarding this latter there has been the widest criticism and charges of barbarism and lack of progress against these two great nations.

The position taken by our delegates in this great congress as well as those representing Great Britain was that they would in no way restrict the invention of more warlike articles, holding to the ground that war should be made so terrible that nations would not only hesitate but almost refuse to enter into it, and that the more dangerous and destructive weapons were produced by the inventive genius of either country, so much the surer was that country to remain at peace with all the world. This broad view is mostly contended against and seemed particularly distasteful to the less inventive nations that were represented. The reproach which was endeavored to be placed on these countries, especially regarding the dum-dum bullet, is explained from the fact that all the civilized nations are against explosive bullets. The tendency of modern small arms has been to make a bullet which would be small and destructive, and when striking the victim if it did not at once kill him would cause but a small wound which would easily heal. The dum-dum bullet, on the contrary, is made of soft lead and covered with copper or nickel partly. It is of such peculiar make up that when it strikes it spreads and makes a very severe and shattering wound breaking whatever bones it reaches badly and lacerating the flesh itself. It is one of the most barbarous inventions of modern times, but is defended by these very advanced countries on the idea that they both have large colonial possessions and must constantly be at war with barbarous or semi-barbarous tribes, and that all rules of ordinary civilized warfare are lost on these people who would not be bound by the rules of civilized warfare or submit to them, and that more brutal force is needed in subduing them; so that in fighting such tribes, civilized countries must be armed in the most destructive manner in order to make whatever lesson is administered unnecessary of repetition in the future.

The Olympia, bearing Admiral Dewey homeward, is at this writing in the Mediterranean Sea. At the several places at which he has stopped Admiral Dewey has been received with most enthusiastic demonstrations of good will both to himself and to his nation. This action on the part of European citizens is highly pleasing to Americans who appreciate the attention shown to our great naval hero. It is now understood that on his arrival in America, which will be near the first of October, the North American squadron under Admiral Sampson is to meet the Olympia at some designated point and escort her to New York.

Here a demonstration will take place which in extent and magnificence will be unrivalled in any modern event of similar nature, with the possible exception of the great days of the Queen's jubilee in London a few years ago. Immense preparations for the demonstration are already under way, and a temporary triumphal arch costing $50,000 is one of the features. This is to be replaced later by a permanent arch of the same formation which will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, the work of which is to be given by Italian sculptors without cost. The display of electrical illumination on the great occasion will be the most wonderful thing ever seen. Brooklyn bridge is to be converted into a complete mass of electrical light to be shown every evening; while it is expected every pier and warehouse will be covered with similar lights for the greatest night of the celebration. Readers who have ever seen New York at night from either river with its wonderful display of tall buildings lighted by electricity and the myriads of colored lights from the water's edge and upon the bosoms of the two rivers, may form some idea of the grand spectacle which will be given in this display. Aside from this there are to be parades and decorations without number.

After the New York display, Admiral Dewey is to go to Washington to be entertained by the president and heads of departments. There will be a repetition of the New York display on a lesser scale. Here the Admiral will be presented with the $10,000 sword appropriated by Congress in honor of him and his victory in Manila Bay. The sword and its elaborate scabbard were made by Tiffany at a cost of over $3,000. The balance of the appropriation is to be devoted to medals for himself, officers and men, all of which will be distributed at that time.

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Send us only 5c. and we send you **Six** Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. **5 cents for 6.** Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

St. Peter's church at Rome is the largest in the world and will hold fifty-four thousand people.

NO FAITH CURE

ABOUT STUART'S DYSPEPSIA TABLETS.

They Cure Stomach Trouble and Indigestion Anyway, Whether You Have Faith in Them or Not.

All physicians agree that the element of faith has a great deal to do in the cure of disease.

Firm belief and confidence in a family physician of the same confidence and faith in a patent medicine have produced remarkable cures in all ages.

This is especially true in nervous troubles, and no field offers so prolific a harvest for the quack and charlatan as the diseases arising from a weak or run down nervous system.

Nevertheless, the most common of all diseases, indigestion and stomach troubles which in turn cause nervous disease, heart troubles, consumption and loss of flesh, requires something besides faith to cure.

Mere faith will not digest your food for you, will not give you an appetite, will not increase your flesh and strengthen your nerves and heart, but Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will do these things, because they are composed of the elements of digestion, they contain the juices, acids and peptones necessary to the digestion and assimilation of all wholesome food.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will digest food if placed in a jar or bottle in water heated to 98 degrees, and they will do it much more effectively when taken into the stomach after meals, whether you have faith that they will or not.

They invigorate the stomach, make pure blood and strong nerves in the only way that nature can do it, and that is from plenty of wholesome food, well digested. It is not what we eat, but what we digest that does us good.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by druggists at 50 cents for full sized package.

Little book on cause and cure of stomach troubles mailed free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

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Send stamp for application blank with full particulars. Local Agents Wanted to handle "Life of Dewey" and Philippine War Book. Big Pay.
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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter		$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter		2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "		2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "		1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "		1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Mrs. Loula K. Rogers,	**$3.00**
J. W. Cole,	**2.50**
Ella S. Cooper,	**2.00**
Marion Johnson,	**1.50**
Mrs. A. A. Watkins,	**1.00**

"September strews the woodland o'er
With many a brilliant color;
The world is brighter than before,
Why should our hearts be duller?
Sorrow and the scarlet leaf,
Sad thoughts and sunny weather!
Ah me! this glory and this grief
Agree not well together."

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Thus Nature never repines over the loss of bee and bird and flower. She goes steadily on with her appointed task. Each day has its work, and no matter how much is taken from her she does her best with what remains. Though all bright flowers and all sweet songs are forsaking her she clothes herself in gaily colored leaves and never falters in her useful toil. So let us, as friends depart and losses come, show to others a bright face, and go calmly on doing our part in this world's work, remembering that trials are not sent us to brood over, but to lift us up, to broaden and deepen our characters, and so, if we will only let them, to enable us the sooner to do the work for which we were placed here and to fit us for the life to come.

"Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Finds us farther than to-day."

Now to our letters, the first one of which holds us still in the departing summer for one more ramble in the piney woods.

"Did you ever take a horseback ride all alone among the pines of southern Georgia? If not you have missed one of life's weird, mystic poems that breathes in its solemn grandeur a sublimity just the reverse of the ocean's wild roar. For miles and miles level white roads bordered with green verdure wind through the forest, which is scattered over in spring with thousands of starry-eyed phlox blooms of every conceivable color. Shining through the trees here and there is a spreading brooklet which in the low country widens until it becomes a clear, still lake, through which your horse tramps very leisurely, and in summer, like an experienced toper, insists on taking a drink.



AMONG THE GEORGIA PINES.

"While listening to the dreamy minor notes of the waving pines one's revery suddenly comes to an end by the glimpse of a dark, lazy alligator stretched full length on the trunk of an ancient cypress that has fallen in the miniature lake. Just to try his agility hurl a stick in that direction, and glancing toward you as if he considers you very presumptuous, he slowly turns, and, without any rash haste, deliberately lets himself down into the water and crawls into his subterranean apartments.

"A little farther on we join a party en route to the beautiful Ocmulgee to take a peep into our fish baskets. *Mirabile dictu!* There safely ensconced in the base of the conical trap we find a large cat fish weighing twenty-five pounds! Having been reared in middle Georgia, it was the first time I had ever seen such a monster. Around him were several smaller ones, which to us were immense, but this aquatic king, what shall we do with him? Finally we decided to bake his majesty, but when the cook prepared him for the roaster, his dimensions forbade his entrance and he had to be quartered.

"The lofty pine, however, is not alone in his glory on the river. There we see majestic oaks draped most gracefully in long sweeping moss, the mourning cypress waves in the soft summer air and the tall Magnolia Grandiflora with its white queenly blooms waft their fragrance everywhere.

"But the greatest fun to me was hunting the wild turkey and the quail in their woodland haunts. There were a dozen in the party, all on horseback, except two girls who were mounted on mules and quite delighted with the novelty. The gentlemen cautiously proceeded through dense woods in search of the turkey, while we were acting sentinels on the movements of the quail. A signal was to be given when a drove of birds came in sight. They did not have to wait long. The echo of the little whistle was caught on the breeze. All were wild with excitement and highly elated at the prospect of securing the whole drove and enjoying a partridge dinner—but alas! It is said a woman can never hold her tongue at the right moment, so we thoughtless creatures chatted and giggled in spite of all the warnings of our gallant escorts and—so we lost our game! Instead of meekly being driven into the nets the frightened birds suddenly left us and all of our glorious visions of quail on toast for that day were like a mirage of the desert. The gentlemen, however, were too chivalrous to blame us very severely, but secretly decided among themselves never to go quail hunting in partnership with our sex again, wisely quoting 'speech is silver but silence is golden.' Thanks to their superior control of the tongue, we were made happy in a few days by a long net containing thirty encaged quails, half a deer and a wild turkey."

LOUISE ROGERS, Barnesville, Ga.

From the wild freedom of the Georgia pines to the dreary fastnesses of a Kentucky penitentiary is a great and sudden change, and yet perhaps it will be good for us to reflect a little in view of our coming festival, on our blessings and comforts, and to realize how many there are in this broad land to whom Thanksgiving day is almost the only taste they have of enjoyment of any kind.

"Thanksgiving day, the day that is looked forward to with so much pleasure and happiness by the many thousands of inhabitants of our dear land, brings no less joy to those confined in our State penitentiaries. They are thankful that it is as well with them as it is, which many of us are not. It has been our pleasure to witness expressions of gladness and thankfulness light up the faces of men who had transgressed the law and were paying the penalty, that are seldom seen on the outside.

"On ordinary days when visitors wish to go through the penitentiary they have to pay twenty-



KENTUCKY BRANCH PENITENTIARY.

five cents admission, which from the great numbers who visit the prison makes quite a snug sum annually. This fund is set apart to provide extras for the inmates of the prison on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Fourth of July.

"Some weeks before the day set for Thanksgiving the officer having such matters in charge purchases a large number of turkeys and geese, and these are well fed to get them in prime condition for the day of feasting and rejoicing, while great quantities of cakes, apples, lemons, pies, and other things, are purchased and prepared for the day of days to those men.

"The day before Thanksgiving the turkeys and geese are dressed, and long before daybreak on Thanksgiving day experienced cooks are at work preparing them for dinner. The great ovens and ranges are kept busy until near the noon hour, when the work is completed. When the 'all-right' bell rings at 6.30 a. m. on this day, the men do not march to the work shops as usual but are given the liberty of the yard and are permitted to engage in conversation or games, to read, write, or attend services in the chapel conducted by earnest Christian men and women who visit the prison in large numbers on such days. Soon the bell that they are so eagerly listening for calls them into line and the march into the dining room for Thanksgiving dinner begins. In a few moments all are seated in their accustomed places, the kind-hearted warden and chaplain each speak a few well chosen words, and the bell taps for, to them, the greatest of all dinners to commence. Neat and swift waiters flit here and there attending to the wants of all, and doubtless the dinner is more thoroughly enjoyed and thankfully received than in many homes where happiness and thankfulness should reign supreme.

"If you want to enjoy one Thanksgiving spend it among your fallen fellowmen and also try to make some poor unfortunate realize that even in this day and time it can be said of some, 'I was in prison and ye visited me.'"

J. W. COLE, Benton, Ky.

Here is a very pleasant letter from an Oregon cousin.

"I have been reading the letters of others in COMFORT and think I will write you a few lines about my home.

"We live on a ranch on the east side of Columbia River, and are surrounded by mountains. Our ranch contains one hundred and sixty-seven acres of timber land and five or six acres of farming land. The O. R. and N. railway runs just in front of the house. There is a mountain near by called Shell Rock, around which this railway runs. This mountain is well named Shell Rock for pieces of it are constantly breaking off and falling into the Columbia River or on the railway track. The managers of the railway are obliged to keep a watchman on duty day and night at this point to keep the track clear of rocks.

"There are also many creeks or brooks that run down from the mountains, which are noted for their trout which measure from five to nine and ten inches in length. People are not allowed to catch trout less than five inches long this year, which will be rather hard on the fishermen who make a living by catching brook trout."

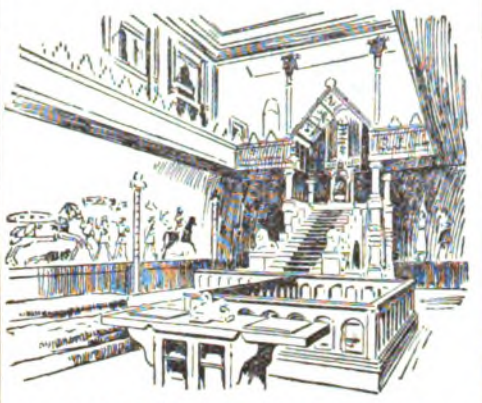
LAURA M. STOKOE, Cascade Locks, Ore.

One of the most curious as well as instructive buildings of modern times is that of the "Halls of the Ancients," so called, in Washington, D. C. Its originator and architect, whose name appears in the following letter, was also the designer and builder of the Pompeiian house at Saratoga Springs, which was so graphically described in this department a year or two ago by Robert Seaver.

"The fact that each state of our Union has its own capital should not cause us to forget that we have a National capital as well. The city of Washington may well command our admiration and love; it should be our Mecca, the spot which every citizen should aim to visit and know. That such educational institutions as are of value to all should find their home in this, our City Beautiful, seems most appropriate. The construction of the National Galleries, the greatest educational conception ever presented to the world, will be a realization of the ideal museum, illustrating the evolution of civilization so that all can study and understand.

"Mr. Franklin W. Smith is the promotor of this broad and nationalizing idea. To teach the people the need of it, he has constructed on New York Avenue, the building which he calls 'The Halls of the Ancients.' One large room in this building is devoted exclusively to models and plans of the proposed structure. The remainder is arranged to furnish, in a most fascinating manner, illustrations of the four great civilizations on whose ashes our own has been built.

"A reconstruction of the Columns of Karnak, those wonderful supporting shafts, the highest ever raised by man, guards the entrance to the building and leads into the Hall of Columns. Here are seen the twelve, glorious in the Oriental coloring and decorations, with their capitals in Lotus Bud and Palm, while graphic tales of life and death and conquest may be read in the hieroglyphics that are traced on wall and column. Roman civilization is illustrated in the House of Vettius, covering with its different rooms, ten thousand square feet. The Throne Room, an Assyrian apartment, appears in its heavenly splendor of blue and gold, Assyria's chosen colors. A model of King Senacherib is seated on the Throne of Xerxes while captives of different races support the chair. The Saracenic



THRONE ROOM, HALLS OF THE ANCIENTS.

Hall, with its gallery covered with casts of tracories from the Alhambra, is wonderfully beautiful.

"As we pass from room to room the past seems linked to the present. We see before us the architecture, the coloring, the illustration of the arts and religion, even the daily life of the ancient peoples. It is something more than a museum of mummies and relics, it is a 'house full of ideas' not of 'dead men's bones.'"

ELLA S. COOPER, Bridgeport, Conn.

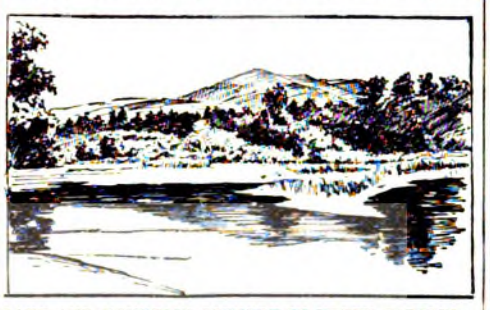
Since the Cuban War anything pertaining to the West Indies possesses a peculiar interest to our people, so I am sure the following letter describing the Lake of Fire at Nassau will please my readers.

"Among the many attractions of Nassau in the Bahamas, is a small lake called the 'Lake of Fire' which is about one thousand feet long and from two to three hundred feet broad. It was originally constructed to store green turtles in, but now is one of the great attractions for visitors. In the daytime it appears just the same as any well behaved sheet of water, but it is at night that the 'Imp of Darkness' or some other imp gets in his fireworks. The minute the water is agitated it seems like a sheet of fire. This is due to the phosphorescence of the water, though why there should be so much phosphorescence in this one particular spot has never been satisfactorily explained. The lake is cut out of solid rock and is only a few hundred feet from the ocean, with which it is connected by a small canal, and when the gate in the canal is left open the water in the lake rises and falls with the tide. Though no underground connection with the lake has yet been found, no matter how often its water is changed, the phosphorescence remains the same. To step out of the dense darkness of a tropical night and gaze on this mysterious lake gives one a very weird and gruesome sensation."

MARION JOHNSON, Cornwall, Conn.

Now we have a bit of description of North Carolina scenery written for us by a new cousin, whom we are glad to welcome among us.

"Yadkin College is situated in the horseshoe bend of the Yadkin river, in Davidson county, North Carolina. It is built on a very high hill, and has an observatory six stories high. From this observatory can be seen one of the grandest pieces of natural scenery it has ever been my privilege to



LAKE AND MOUNTAIN SCENERY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

behold. Just over north the grand old Pilot Mountain seems to be standing sentinel over a continuous range of mountains, from west to east as far as the eye can see; and the majestic river, like a silver belt, flashing and sparkling in the sunlight, winds its tortuous way from north to south. In plain view one can watch the different ferryboats as they ply their way to and fro across the mighty river. From every hilltop rise the palatial homes of the wealthy, and low down in the valley the hovels of the poor seem to be shrinking out of sight. As the sun reaches the meridian one hears the shrill whistle of the engines, and from three tobacco factories come pouring forth their employees, men, women and little children—on their way to their humble homes for the noon meal. Anon we hear the clang of the college bell, and the delighted children, released from temporary confinement, rush out of the college with shouts and laughter. Then come tripping girls, the dignified divinity student, and the staid professors, all wending their several ways to their homes for refreshment and rest. As one looks down from this lofty perch one can but think of the different lots in the world; but it is comforting to know that no matter what position we occupy there is 'One who heeds, who holds us all in His large love and boundless thought.'"

MRS. A. A. WATKINS. Manson, N. C.

Now we have a short sketch of the beautiful city of Peoria, Illinois.

"Not more than a century ago, the now large and thrifty city of Peoria, with thousands of inhabitants, was a lake, where Indians used to fish and paddle their canoes, this being their favorite spot for hunting and fishing. Now nothing remains to be seen of the lake but houses, houses, everywhere; old settlers can tell you of how their grandparents made peace with the Indians and built their log cabins on the lake shores. The lake gradually dried or ran out, as it was a branch of the Illinois river. At the upper side of the city the river is wide and is still called lake. High bluffs surround the entire city, forming a valley and a protection to people from storms. The scenery on the outskirts of the town is magnificent. The city has many industries giving employment to thousands of men, women, boys and girls. It is especially noted for the distilling of alcohol and whiskey and storing of grain. Many beautiful public buildings are to be seen, and it ranks next to Chicago in every respect. CHAS. HONAG, Peoria, Ills.

Here are a few words from a favorite cousin of ours.

"Hunting and fishing are the favorite sports among the residents along the Mississippi coast, and no place is more suited for this purpose than Chef Menteur, or the 'Chef' as it is familiarly called.

"The 'Chef' derives its name from the beautiful bayou of the same name which connects Lake Borgne with Lake Pontchartrain, and here fish abound at almost all seasons of the year, and as a natural result many fishing and hunting clubs have homes on the banks of this little stream, and any day zealous sportsmen may be seen in pirogues trying their luck at the fish.

"Chef Menteur is about twenty miles beyond New Orleans, and is on the Louisville and Nashville Road. Men from the city come out to the Chef on the morning trains, spend the day hunting snipe and duck or fishing, and return to the city that evening in season for dinner, and very seldom empty-handed.

"The club houses are well kept and their tables supplied with every delicacy, their nearness to New Orleans making it an easy matter to procure everything desired.

LOUELLA SPENCE, Pass Christian, Miss.

Many thanks to Salona L. Merritt for her account of the Battle of Big Hole, which I cannot use because it is compiled. We do not use historical articles here.

The following letter is very good and interesting, and is deserving of a prize, but was crowded out of my prize list.

"Now come with me and visit the oil town of Sistersville. Five years ago it was only a little steamboat landing, but now has a population of six thousand, has city water works, free mail delivery and natural gas for fuel and light. We get the gas for $.13 1-2 per thousand feet, and an ordinary family will burn about two thousand feet per month in summer and from ten to fifteen thousand feet per stove per month in winter. The oil wells and houses are all mixed up together and the oil company has the right of way in all things. Our homes are on leased ground, for which we pay from twenty to forty dollars a year lease rent, according to location. We cannot buy a lot as the natives will not sell for love or money, and all ground is leased for oil purposes and then re-leased to people to build on, and if an oil company wants to run a line of oil through your house you can either move it or they can. They will come into town and bring forty quarts of nitroglycerine and lower it in the wells in tin tubes holding any amount they desire, and then drop a piece of iron down and then run; and by the time they are a few rods away the iron has reached the glycerine and a shower of rocks, oil and smoke shoots up over the top of the derrick, which is about seventy-five feet high; but as the wells are about two thousand feet deep in this vicinity there is no danger after the glycerine is in the well. An oil well costs all the way from one to two, three or four thousand dollars, according to the depth and the luck they have in drilling it; and some of them flow as much as one thousand barrels a day. However, such wells are few and are classed as gushers. A fifty barrel well is counted a good producer, and is likely to hold out longer than one of the big wells. The Standard Oil Company has most of the oil in this field, but there are many private companies, and the owners of the ground get a royalty—one-eighth or one-sixteenth of the oil.

MRS. F. K. SHURTE, Sistersville, W. Va.

And now our time is up, so good-by until October.

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September means the end of vacations to thousands of people. Schools, colleges, factories and shops call with the voice of the town. It also means the commencement of vacation to the vast army who have been catering to the needs of "summer boarders."

"Parting summer's lingering bloom" has almost claimed September for her own. The early part of September is emphatically a summer month. The habit of extending vacation into this month grows from year to year in the class that can afford to ignore the imperative call of business.

Sarah Bernhardt's rendering of Hamlet has awakened a desire to play "the melancholy Dane" on the part of Julia Arthur. Americans are promised the innovation of seeing a woman in the title part of the great tragedy. All this awakens discussions as to Hamlet's personal appearance. The mental pictures of Hamlet as given by prominent people run the gamut from "fair and fat" to "dark, small and subtle." It offers an opportunity for newspapers in search of a discussion to ask their readers: "How did Hamlet look?"

The patriotic feelings roused to expression by the war have found vent in a perfect epidemic of sword giving. The sword has ceased to be a weapon of defence but it is still symbolical and as we cannot present rapid firing guns or powder horns the sword answers every demand of sentiment and admiration. The presentation of a sword to the captain of the cruiser Baltimore on the twelfth of September is an occasion of more than ordinary interest to the American people. The fight at North Point during the war of 1812, occurred upon that date. It was during the night of that day that Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner." America has a number of national songs but among them all the Star Spangled Banner is chief favorite. Since the time of its writing the phrase "home of the free" has become literally true. The selection of this historic date for the historic expression of the feelings of Baltimore towards the captain of the cruiser bearing the city's name is peculiarly appropriate.

What a restfulness and charm some people possess through their evident sincerity. "Real people" seem to be growing fewer and fewer in this age of superficialities. One would fancy that even the appearance of sincerity was under fashionable ban and that the modern aim was to present a surface manner, a society veneer so that there would be no mistaking it for anything genuine. "A painted ship upon a painted ocean" can awaken more genuine emotion in us than the crowd of shadows that flit by as "people." To have a real place in the world one must be real. We sometimes feel that those we meet must have a hearty disapprobation of themselves as known to themselves because their efforts to hide the "Ego" are so patent. We may not always approve or even like the personality revealed by a sincere person, but we feel it and we must at least respect the genuineness of it. The chief charm of manner is simplicity and sincerity. When one gets outside these two "s's" manner ceases and "manners" begin. "Manner" is cultured but "manners" are essentially vulgar. The note of absolute sincerity will carry conviction and make an impression in every instance—not by trying but by an absence of effort.

We have had a long standing joke as to the total inability of our English cousins to see a "joke." We cannot blame them for their density when we read of the high handed action of our honored Ambassador, Mr. Choate. Mr. Choate has long held an enviable position as a prince of jest makers. We felt that his keen, incisive wit would stir even the sluggish British intellect. It has. More, it has seemed worthy of careful and studied attention and an enterprising maker of books after following the trail of Mr. Choate's wit with stenographer, scissors, paste and patience, prepared the Choate Jest Book. Here was the text book of wit and humor, a careful perusal of which would train the beef eaters to a measure of comprehension of American fun. But alas, 'twas not to be. Mr. Choate bought up the entire edition—and suppressed it. Some optimists hoped that he had purchased the edition meaning to present copies where his experience had taught him they would do the most good. Some venture to hint that a "jest book" and the high and mighty position of an ambassador cannot exist at one and the same time in the same nation. However it may chance, Mr. Choate has purchased the privilege of being his own jest book unless some starved scribbler sees the business opportunity presented by the possibility of selling an entire edition at sight and pirates some more Choate jokes to print. The British public must still catch the jokes "on the fly" or not at all.

The Church Army under the lead of Col. Hadley is making a great effort to rival the attractions of the cup that inebriates by the cup that cheers. Tea saloons with tea served over a bar are being established in many of the large cities. Col. Hadley argues that people drink beer and the like because these are easily secured. The tea saloons furnish both hot and iced tea. Arrangements are also made to sell the liquids in quantities. People come to these saloons with pitchers and pails and the sight of these receptacles on city streets is no longer equivalent to a conviction of "rushing the growler" as the local vernacular terms this method of ministrating to thirst. The movement has excited much interest and a corresponding amount of discussion. Some physicians express the belief that the "tea habit" may be as harmful physically as the habit of indulging in alcoholic beverages. Tea used in such excessive quantities that the tannin affects the system is certainly not an harmless substitute for liquor, but such instances of its use are rare enough to make a serious discussion of this result unprofitable. To substitute one vice for another is not radical reformation but the old adage, "of two evils choose the least" is practical advice at any rate. The excessive nervous strain that is a modern characteristic shows itself in a natural habit of drinking—ice water, soda water—"soft drinks" and those not "soft." The ice water habit may be as directly harmful in a physical way as the habit of strong drink. Physicians are not agreed in regard to the physical effect of stimulants and narcotics but there can be no ground of hesitation between the moral effect of tea drinking or the drinking of spirituous liquors. If the "tea saloon" furnishes the elements of good fellowship and social intercourse and supplants a bad habit with at least a better one the results will justify the efforts.

The county fair is here. How brightly the announcement gleams through the long hot vista of haying and early harvesting. Through all the varied amusements of his later years the country bred boy never forgets the wild joy of "fair time." The long procession of wagons that filled every county road, the blare of the brass band, the excitement of the booths with their mysteries of popcorn and pink lemonade, the appetizing odor of boiled onions and cabbage from some hall where an enterprising church society are serving dinner to those reckless enough to buy a dinner instead of bringing one to be eaten picnic fashion—all this and more made up the fascinating whole of the "Fair." Then after one day's wild dissipation the satisfying sense of two more days yet remained. What after taste of pomps and vanities can equal that "fun."

There has been a tendency to lament the fact that the county fairs were no longer an exhibit of agricultural products but rather a horse racing, vaudeville performance masquerading under the name of agricultural fair. This is a wrong idea and proceeds largely from the class of people who can gratify their pleasure loving taste anytime but who consider live stock and mammoth pumpkins as a new form of entertainment and resent the mixture of their bucolic pleasure with the more familiar form of amusement. The average farmer may and does take an honest pride in exhibiting the products of his farm, but after months of observation of their staples he appreciates the excitement of a balloon ascension or a juggling feat or the antics of a contortionist. The people who insist that a fair must be purely agricultural first, last and all the time, forget the old adage of "all work and no play." It is the contact with other people and the change from the daily routine that constitute the chief benefit of the "county fair."

During the month of September a convention of the most practical possibility will assemble in Huntsville, Alabama. This convention will give a careful and intelligent consideration to the problem of the industrial conditions of the South. Representative men from all portions of the South will be present. The present condition of the resources and industries of the South will be carefully considered and suggestions looking to the future development of this section will be given by practical business men. In the list of papers and discussions are the topics: cotton and cotton factories, iron, wool, timber, phosphates, railroads, dairying, legislation affecting capital and corporations, poultry stock, silk culture, banking, the press, minerals and pottery, the race problem, education, law diversification of industry and immigration. The South is still as it was in Colonial days, an agricultural section. The use of steam as a motive power has removed the bar to the manufacture of products where the raw material is found or produced and the future of the South lies in its development of the manufacture of its own products. This convention means much to the business interest of the nation. The new South is hardly a generation old. Its vast natural resources are as yet but partly developed. It is taking up the problem of its commercial future in a scientific spirit that bids fair to develop the section in a phenomenal manner. The Colonial history of the South is full of the efforts of the Southern colonists to find some staple agricultural product suited to the climatic conditions. The mention of a paper upon silk culture brings to mind the early effort of Virginia in this line. The South is the oldest section of our country and it is to-day the least developed section. Its resources are but partially comprehended even by its own citizens and the influence of the September convention cannot fail to produce speedy and far reaching results.

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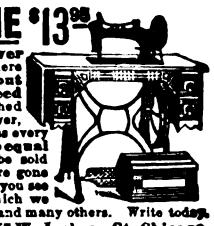
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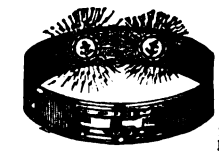
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165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddavd
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Welz
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Ziehrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
83	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Weael
223	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
44	Beautiful Face of Jennie, The	Reissmann
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
226	Blue Eyes	Elson
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Hosfeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain,	Dinsmore
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasaide
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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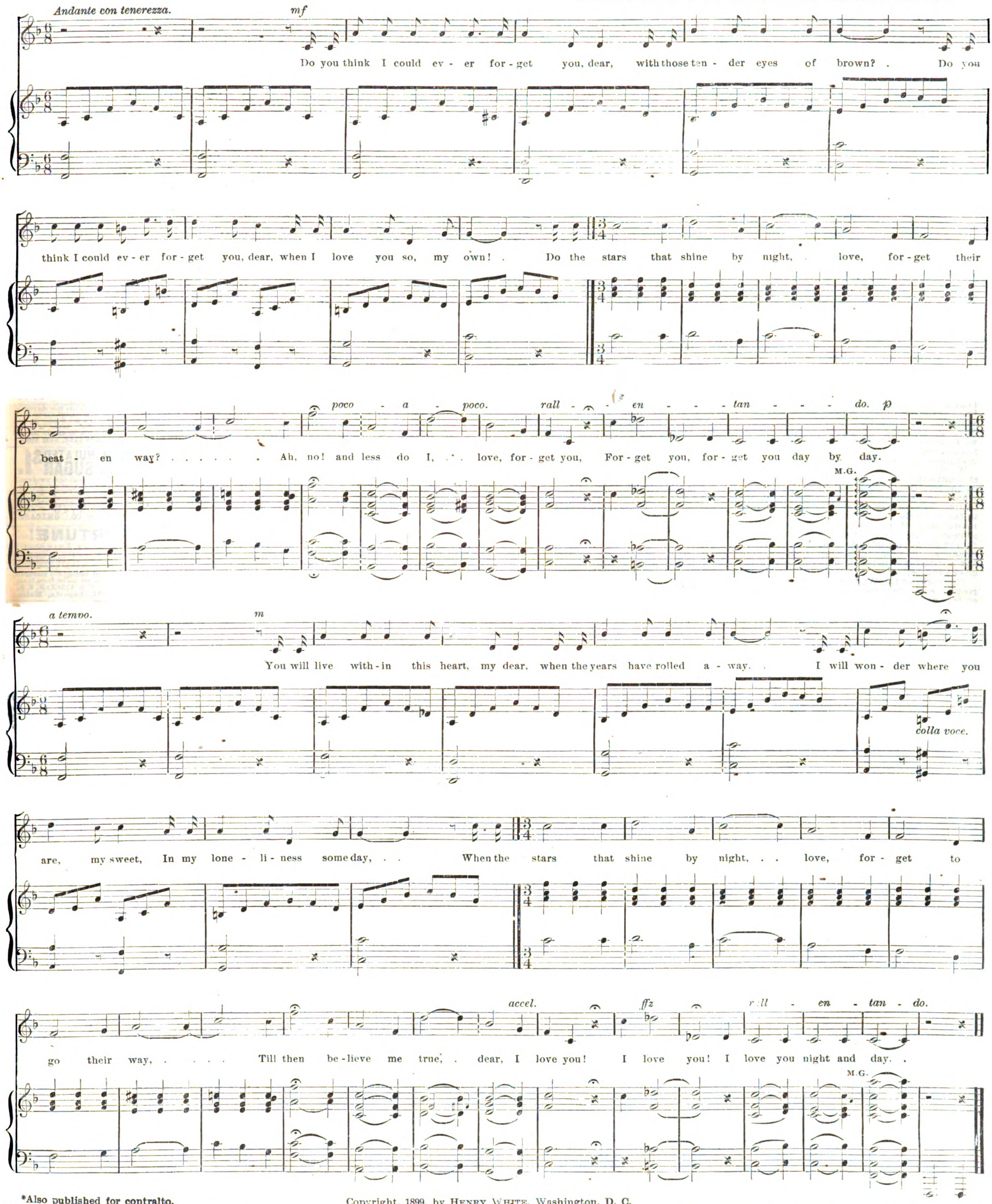
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WORDS AND MUSIC BY JOHN K. LAWRENCE.



*Also published for contralto.

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Some Good Advice to Singers.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

It is an old saying that nothing succeeds like success and to obtain the most successful results in any direction it is always well to take the advice of those who have most brilliantly won out the battle in their own lines. A short time ago COMFORT published in its musical department an entertaining account of that great singer Patti, and recently that great *diva* has charmingly given the public some account of her own work.

It is with pleasure that COMFORT is able to condense a few of these ideas, as they certainly will be an assistance to every singer, amateur or professional, who hopes to be a leader in this art. The rules she laid down for herself were wise and at the same time not difficult to follow if the singer were willing to exercise a little self denial. The very first point was to keep the vocal powers full with extreme care and to that end Mme. Patti never exposed herself.

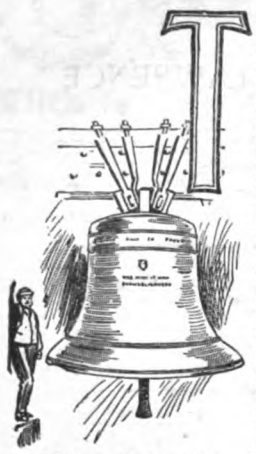
Her care undoubtedly led to great exaggeration in newspapers which frequently stated in cynical terms her fear of catching cold. One imaginative writer for the press once related how all her clothing was marked with cabalistic signs; and that she carried a thermometer by which she reckoned addition or subtraction of a certain number of ounces of clothing as the mercury rose or fell in the tube. Someway or other her care seemed very ludicrous or eccentric to newspaper writers, and in one case it was told elaborately in detail of her slow progression from one room to another when the degree of heat varied, in order that the chill might not shock her.

As a matter of fact her rules were to harden up the body and build up the constitution; not to occupy overheated rooms at any time; to live outdoors at least two hours each day and to breathe plenty of good fresh air. She did not believe in muffling up the throat. On the contrary she did not believe in exposing one'sself to too much damp air. These are all good rules and should be followed by singers.

The song published in this number of COMFORT is a very beautiful one which will be generally admired. Under the music offer on another page COMFORT is sending thousands of sheets of music at about ten per cent. of the cost at the low sales in music stores. Read it and act at once.

A Notable Clock and Its Bells.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE are few clocks of the same universal fame as the Westminster clock in the great tower at the northwest corner of the British Houses of Parliament, known as "Big Ben." I recently had occasion to make an examination of this famous horological specimen.

A Londoner—"Big Ben" from the outside had been familiar enough to me, but a personal acquaintance as it were, was another matter. To be on mother earth and gaze upon the towering mass of masonry thirty-five feet square is one thing; it is another to climb the great tower and peer into the face of the giant measurer of Chronos.

"Big Ben's" tower is three hundred feet high and with its belfry spire twenty feet more, to ascend which is no mean undertaking for the lightest of hearts. Then one must be stout of limb and have good wind chests or the clock—to say nothing of the bells—will not be reached. Fortunately I am thus blessed, so, having submitted to much red-tapeism, I secured the necessary orders from the First Commissioner of Works. Accompanied by the janitor with lamps and keys we passed through a door at the foot of this giant tower. I looked up. It was an immense height of an apparently endless winding staircase. Far, far off could just be distinguished a dim light forcing its way in from the crannies. This was the top, leading to the clock room.

The ascent began—with the mournful prospect of having to mount six hundred steps and more, ere I could set hands or eyes upon the famous Westminster clock, or the famous specimen of the bell-founder's art which has been sounding the time for all London ever since 1858. It was slow work and right welcome were the occasional stoppages of my companion to turn on the gas jets which light up this wondrous staircase.

We climbed on—I getting wearier at every step until the welcome intimation that we were on the level of the clock room ended a journey which no asthmatical "party" ought to attempt. Through a small door and we were face to face with the notable Westminster clock—a masterpiece of horological ingenuity. It is somewhat strange that an eminent lawyer should have designed this famous clock, yet so it stands. Sir Edmund Beckett Denison, now Lord Grimthorpe is the highest authority upon clocks and bells.

The works of the Westminster clock are in a room twenty-eight feet by eighteen feet, lighted by a gas jet or two, but the actual frame of the clock which encloses the works is fifteen and one-half feet long by four feet seven inches wide. The pendulum weighs seven hundred pounds, four hundred and forty-eight of which are taken up by the "bob." It can be accelerated one second a day by putting on an ounce weight. At the ends of the works are the winders. The winding up of the going part takes ten minutes, while the winding up of the striking parts—the quarter part and the hour part—takes five hours each; and this has to be done twice a week. Two men perform this winding. From this room the time is communicated to the dials which keep a watchful eye on London's four sides. Upon close inspection the dials are immense—a size which can be best



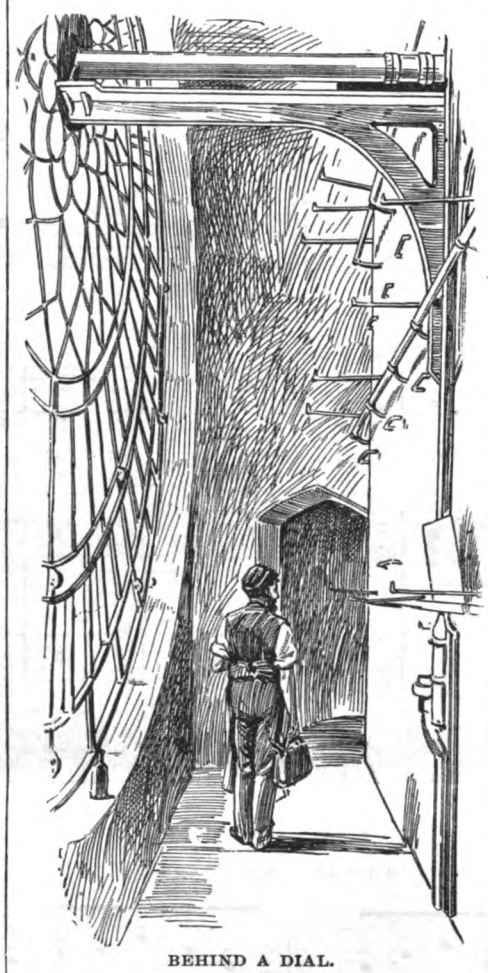
CLOCK TOWER AND BEACONSFIELD STATUE.

gauged by the statement of fact that it is the largest dial with minute hands in the world. They measure each twenty-two and one half feet in diameter or very nearly four hundred feet in area. The minute hands are sixteen feet long—the length of three average men—while the hour hand from the center of the dial to its extreme point measures six feet; and the figures to which they point are two feet long. The minute divisions at the outer circumference of the dials stand fourteen inches apart, so that in each half minute the pointer travels seven inches. There is no jump however. By the exquisite machinery of the clock the hands move continuously and without any visible jerk. The framework of each face of this huge timepiece weighs four tons, exclusive of the glass. This frame is of galvanized iron and the glass with which it is filled is a very expensive opal.

The lighting of the clock is effected by jets of gas on the whitened walls five feet behind the dials. An important consideration in timepieces, great and small, is their time-keeping qualities. In this respect Westminster clock cannot be beaten. One second for eighty-three days is all the error this clock makes, which can be said of no other clock in the world. This timekeeper reports itself to Greenwich Observatory daily by electric telegraph, giving two signals a day at an hour before and after noon for greater accuracy. From this fact has arisen a stupid yet popular misconception concerning it. Originally some enemy to the clock or of its designer, set about the report that it was "controlled," that is kept to time, by electrical connection with Greenwich. No such thing. It reports its own performance to the Observatory. A signal is sent from Greenwich at some hour daily for the information of the winding men, but they never touch the pendulum unless the error is two seconds, which happens very seldom.

Much more I might have learned concerning this famous timepiece, but as it was nearing twelve o'clock and I was anxious to be in the belfry when the bells gave off the hour, a higher stage on the journey had to be essayed.

The apartment resembles a huge iron cage



BEHIND A DIAL.

with an open dome (leading to the lantern of the tower) and trellis-work iron flooring. The place abounds in iron girders and rafters after the fashion of a quay or pier landing stage. In the center is "Big Ben," 6 feet 6 inches in height, 9 feet in diameter, 27 feet in circumference and weighing 13 tons 11 cwt. Truly a colossal bell and the biggest one in Britain until the Men-Taylor cast "Great Paul," the monster bourdon bell of St. Paul's Cathedral, weighing 16 tons 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs. Around "Big Ben" are suspended its solemn satellites, varying from six to four feet in diameter, large bells enough yet insignificant in the company of the great bell, which ought to sound the note E but doesn't because it is cracked.

Where is "Big Ben" cracked? I was just about making this examination for myself when there came a strain and a creaking as if the tower, or its upper part at least, were about to topple over. I clutched at my watch. It was just twelve o'clock and ere I had realized this the first note of the quarter sounded. Instantly the place was an almost unendurable pandemonium. The reverberations from the first quarter's chime had barely disentangled themselves ere the second quarter intensified matters. "Clang—clang" roared in the third series, creating a perfect sea of sound, and when the "ding-dong-dong-ding" of the final greater bells pealed in all this mixture of sound seemed lashed into fury. Escape it could not in so short a time, and the air around appeared a whirling maze of strong sound currents, hard for the head to endure.

This while I climbed the staging so as to actually feel the bell's throbbings under such terrific blows as would ensue from a hammer weighing four hundredweight. It trembled violently under its punishment. Little wonder, thought I, that it cracked when struck with a clapper double this weight, although the bell should have borne with an eight hundred weight clapper. Had it done so the sound would have been much louder than it now is.

At the final stroke of twelve o'clock I held the rim of "Big Ben" until its pulsations ceased; but it was some time afterwards ere the sound entirely disappeared in the air.

Dismounting I espied on the floor hard by the iron culprit which did the injury to "Big Ben" and it certainly looks capable of hurling destruction at anything coming in its way. It is only fair to say, however, that the non-amalgamation of the tin with the copper in the casting and not the weight of the clapper was the cause of "Big Ben's" cracking—a calamity which for many years has given London the questionable privilege of listening hourly to a bell which is deplorably out of tune. This, just over the heads of those who legislate for Great Britain and its dependencies, is a sorry commentary upon the musical perceptions of England's Senators! That it was in casting that the defect in "Big Ben" arose is clearly established by the section of metal which has been cut from the rim of the bell.

We now made for the terrace outside the belfry from which a magnificent view of London's four sides is obtained. The heights on the north side of the great city are discernible while one seems almost able to touch the dome of St. Paul's and such high structures as the Monument. Looking down, human beings appear as so many flies and horses and vehicles look no bigger than mice tied to tiny conveyances.

Only twice in its history has the clock ceased in its time recording functions. On the first occasion a heavy fall of snow clogged the hands preventing their traveling. The next time it was stopped purposely. This was on the 15th of September, 1880, when the reason of the cessation was to allow workmen to erect a scaffold in the clock room for the purpose of repairing and decorating, and while that was going on the opportunity was taken to clean the works of the clock.

The expenditure upon this great clock and bells is a matter which is often debated. Well, the dials and hands together—by a piece of blundering—cost £5,334, or more than the whole outlay for the works and the striking parts in the bell chamber above; so that £10,000 might be set down as a round figure for its original value.



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FINLAND.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



KANTELE PLAYER.

IN northern Europe, bounded by the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland, by Russia and Lapland, is a country little known to us, but worthy of our attention. Finland is twice the size of New England, it is not a day's journey from Christiana in Sweden or St. Petersburg in Russia, its scenery is delightful and sport is abundant, yet the tourist seems to have overlooked it.

Finland is not Lapland, neither do the people live in tents made of skin, nor travel from place to place with herds of reindeer. Finland is by far the most civilized portion of the great Russian Empire and it rivals in culture many of the better known countries of Europe.

To understand the present condition of Finland one must know something of its history. The ancient Finns probably lived in large village communities, governed by chiefs, each tribe hostile to its neighbor. They were pagans but we know little of their religious or other customs. In 1157 Finland was invaded by the Swedes who united the clans and formed the Finns into a nation. Sweden, however, having a liberal government established the same in the captured country, and in spite of being in subjection to the Swedish monarch Finland has practically governed herself always. The greatest disadvantage of the invasion was that the Finnish language was set aside among the higher classes and all the culture, literature, laws and government business was henceforth in Swedish, and inaccessible to the common people. The church, however, retained the tongue of the people so that it was not altogether lost.

In 1808 Finland was conquered by Russia after a most heroic defence, and to-day it is a part of the great Slavonic Empire though the introduction of Russian officials into the country has made but little change in its customs. The Russian language has not been accepted by any portion of the former inhabitants of the land, and this third language we find spoken only by the representatives of the Tsar. The question of language is a serious one in Finland. Even the signs at the corners of the streets are printed in three languages, and in the parliament an interpreter is constantly needed to interpret speeches of the peasants to the gentry and again to the Russian officials.

Suomi is the name the Finns give to their country. Some one has said that Finland is *like* a sponge with the holes representing the lakes, and the simile is a good one. A person may travel almost from end to end of the country by water, using the rivers and chains of lakes as his highway. Every wealthy Finn owns his own lake where he and his family settle for the summer on the charming well wooded islands.

The Finns are a very hospitable people, always glad to welcome strangers and show them the beauties of their land, so little of which is known to the outside world. Their family life is very delightful, family gatherings being a matter of daily occurrence.

A Finn never hurries, he takes life easily and if the trains are not on time it troubles no one, or if the boat starts at midnight when it is billed to start at noon it is no cause of worry to the passengers.



HARD SCRATCHING.

The cities are not unlike those of any country of northern Europe. The houses are securely built with windows that are seldom open for in winter the cold is intense and in summer the people of the better class leave the towns deserted. Helsingfors, the capital, is a town of 70,000 inhabitants. Here is the University and a very good one it is. Women, as well as men, are admitted and it is the centre of society, in the capital, in winter. Women hold a most enviable position in this northern land, that is women of the better classes. They are admitted to almost every occupation and are much respected whatever their occupation. On the other hand the peasant women do much hard manual labor which we should think fit only for men to perform. Every one rides the bicycle in Finland and though the roads are rough the easy going Finn bumps along and thoroughly enjoys it. Fortunately there are almost no hills for Finland is a flat country. Boating, too, is very popular in the summer, and the canoe, not unlike our Indian canoe, may be seen threading its way among the islands of the lakes, through the long summer days, or drifting idly about in the glorious twilight, which in that northern clime lasts far into the night, fading into the dawn. The 24th of June is the great fete of the year. It is Johannulta or Midsummer Day, when the sun goes round without setting and shines brightly even at midnight. Then are burned the Kokko fires. This is in accordance with an ancient pagan custom of unknown origin. Great piles of tar barrels, trees, and anything else combustible are placed on a raft, on a hill top, or at the water's edge and ignited. Every one, old and young, dance about as the fire bursts into flames, singing their national airs, playing games and making merry. If the fire does not smoulder until morning it is a bad omen for the coming year.

Finland is thoroughly musical. Every Finn sings a part and in any place and at any time, waiting for a train to start, or on the arrival of a steamer the crowd may break into song, and sing well. A grand musical festival is held annually, each year in a different town. There is much competition between the choirs which are sent from all parts of the country. The old national airs are the favorites and are often weird and strange in their movement. Some of them date back to the times before history began in Finland and are sung by the Runo Singers, accompanied by the native instrument called the Kantele. By means of these ancient songs much of the tradition of early Finland is preserved. The Runo Singers are dreamy men and women much beloved by the people for they are the poets of the land, and the historians. And think not for a moment that Finland lacks in men of letters. Yes, and it boasts, too, of several women who have made their mark in literature. Probably the best known Finnish work is the epic poem, Kaleuala. This is a collection of the traditions and ancient customs of Finland which the peasants, far removed from civilization, chanted, sang, or told of their country and its heroes. These were passed on from generation to generation and were at last collected and written down. The poem is full of myth and poetical feeling and is, to the Finn, his connecting link between the past and the present.

Finland's wealth is in its forests. Everywhere are the magnificent pines towering high toward the brilliant sky, or the beautiful silvery birches swaying their bright green foliage in graceful curves. Even the mats on the floor are made of the branches with the green leaves on them. The pine trees are a source of immense wealth on account of the tar which they yield, and which forms the principal article of the export trade of Finland.

Everywhere the scenery is beautiful, the fishing is unrivalled, and summer sports of all kinds may be enjoyed beneath a sky of such brilliancy as is found nowhere save in northern lands in the summer. Then comes the long, cold, dark winter. For many days the sun is low on the horizon or appears not at all. But there is compensation for this. The hard, black ice invites hundreds of skaters; in the woods the hunter on skis tracks the deer or the bear, while the sledges are all busy drawing the loads which cannot be hauled over the rough roads in summer. It is a time for merry-making and for visiting, and parties even cross the Baltic to Sweden on the ice.

Railroads connect all the important towns of Finland, steamers cross the largest lakes; telegraph service though expensive is not unknown, and as for the telephone—every one has one, no house being complete without one.

But now when we find Finland far to the front in civilization we ask ourselves, "Whence comes this trouble with Russia?" It is because of its advance that Finland is now suffering from the fear of the yoke. From ancient times she has had her freedom, though ruled by a foreign king. She has had her representative parliament and no law could be passed without its consent, and the Russian Tsars have honored the constitution and rights of the people. Within the present year while the Tsar is talking of disarmament for all nations he proposes to Finland that the Finnish army be incorporated into the Russian army, liable to calls from any part of the empire, from Kamchatka to the Dneiper; and furthermore he proposes to take away the right of parliament to veto, thus giving full power to the Tsar to pass whatever laws he thinks best. It is evident, also, from the inducements held out, that the Tsar intends that Russian shall supplant the Finnish and Swedish languages in Finland. Against all this the people are earnestly protesting but the Tsar is deaf to their remonstrances.

With Russia "Might makes right"' and the Russians would like nothing better than a pretext for calling out troops to quell a rebellion in Finland. But the Finns have been wise, have shown good judgment and much courage, and their natural phlegm and caution have turned to their advantage, and it is to be hoped that with unity at home and a general feeling of sympathy among other nations the cause of Finland will not suffer at the hand of the "Prince of Peace" as they have sarcastically named the Tsar.

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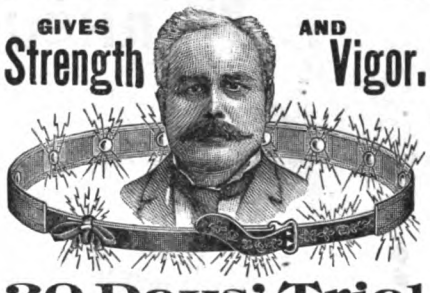
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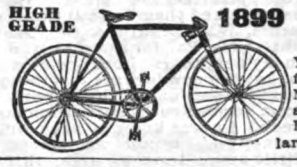
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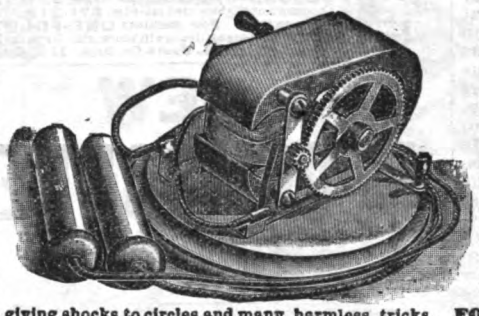
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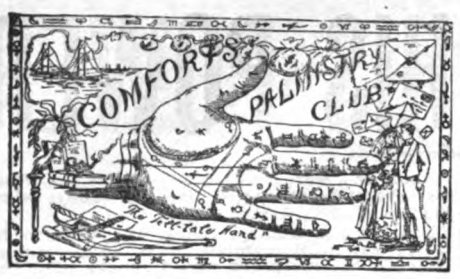
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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I MUST enter another protest against the carelessness of many people who send their impressions to me for reading. I have before me three letters of complaint from people who say they have sent their hands some months ago but have never seen any readings. I have also one package of smoked paper impressions containing not a line or a mark anywhere in or outside the package by which I can guess where it comes from. In the cases of the three letters of complaint the hands have never been received. Now, how is it possible for me to comply with the requests unless you will on your side comply with the full instructions and conditions which are so often given in this column.

I will, however, state them once more as explicitly as possible. Never send a package of impressions without placing inside of them, on the back of the impressions preferably, the name and address of the sender with the nom de plume desired. So much is allowed by the postal authorities in a package. If a note is contained, full letter postage would have to be paid on the package. Unless these instructions are complied with it is utterly impossible for me to keep track of your readings and I cannot even read those which do not contain a nom de plume or any scrap of information. It is always best to send the letter in the package but if you don't, please remember that you must positively put your name and address on the back of the impressions, as with so many impressions coming into this office at once it is utterly impossible to distinguish them if they are not properly labelled. Have I said enough, so that you will be careful hereafter?

A lady of Chalk Mound, Kansas, has written two letters with regard to impressions of her hands which she claims to have sent last January. I have here a package of hands without a line on them anywhere, but they are taken on the back of certain paper advertising a corset from Little Rock. It is possible that these are her hands although they have not on them the nom de plume which she claims—Despondent. I will give her a reading from these hands as I do not know who they can belong to if they are not hers. If they are not hers will she please send a new impression, referring to this reading and her former letters, and I will try it over again. This seems to be the best I can do.

I also have two letters from a gentleman in Eliza, Ky. with regard to his reading of hands sent in March. These I have never received. Will be kindly forward them at once. Again M. A. of Portland, Ore., claims to have sent hands which have never been received. If she will forward them once more and have them properly marked with her name I will read them as soon as possible.

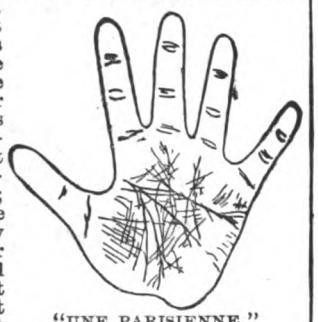


"DESPONDENT."

"Despondent" denotes the hand which I shall read and which I referred to above as being unlabelled. I should judge by the appearance of the hand that the owner of it would naturally be of a desponding disposition and that she would be easily discouraged by the many petty troubles which always have and will beset her path. She has a strong, fearless nature which has helped her through many troubles, but her disposition causes her to worry somewhat and this she cannot help. Her health has never been of the very best. I should judge she has some constitutional weakness which leads her to look on the dark side of things rather than on the light. She has had interference from outside people, some of whom have been very near to her heart and these have caused her many worries. She has never been allowed to go her own way without consulting the wishes of others. She should take courage, however, because later, say after she has passed the age of forty, her lines are much clearer and life will be much brighter for her. Some outside change will come after fifty and she will have peace and comfort through to the end. She will live to be at least seventy. There are many journeys but they are short ones and will never lead her far from her native place. Her head line is deeply indented in many places which would indicate periods of great grief or else some nervous trouble or affection of the brain, possibly nothing more serious than severe headaches. There has been some serious disappointment in matters of the heart early in life before this person was twenty, which not only affected her heart but her head as well, bringing great grief and making life very dark for a time. She recovers from this, however, and marries at about thirty. She will have several engagements but her last marriage, which will take place at about fifty, will be much the best and most successful. "Despondent" should be patient and keep up her courage as the world will certainly grow brighter for her after middle life; in fact the first twenty-five years of her life are much the hardest. She has a strong character, a kind heart and good disposition, with a philosophic temperament and artistic tendencies. This impression has not been secured with fixative and is somewhat rubbed so that it is not possible to make out all the lines clearly.

It is a pleasure to take up such an impression as is sent by "Une Parisienne" which is beautifully taken and carefully secured with fixative which makes it easy to read. This hand was accompanied by a separate letter but it was also marked plainly with the nom de plume and on the outside of the carefully-done-up package the name and address of the sender. This is exactly as it should be and is what I desire everyone who sends hands to this department to do.

"Une Parisienne" has a hand which denotes a light and rather volatile temperament with strong characteristics and a very sensitive nature. She is a person of great tact and knows how to manage other people beautifully, never making enemies and understanding how to meet whims and caprices of others; at the same time she has very strong will power and can control others without their knowing it or in the least understanding why. In matters of the heart she is rather capricious. She has many admirers and is somewhat fickle to outside appearances although when she finds the right man she will be true to him even though she may not be able to resist her natural tendency to a flirtation. She is married somewhere from twenty-five to thirty and will outlive her first husband. A second marriage will take place much later in life. She is highly successful in whatever she undertakes although most of her success will come during the latter part of her life. She will have riches and will be well known. However, she will always have some difficulties to contend with, many of which will be due to her own disposition and temperament. Her right hand is better than her left, showing that she has made a good use of all her faculties and developed them to the utmost. Some change took place in her early life before she was fifteen which has materially affected life since that time. It is impossible for me to say what that change was, but possibly she has not followed exactly what her parents designed for her. As I said before, however, her life will be successful and happy in the main although she will see many troubles which might break down an ordinary woman. She has a very strong, firm character with great perseverance and energy, always carrying through what she undertakes. She is highly artistic and would make a good musician or teacher of languages or physics. She would also probably succeed upon the stage or lecture platform as she has great powers of oratory and mimicry. There are no bad signs in her hand, everything pointing to ultimate success and triumph, but her temperament will cause her to see many discouraged moments. She has asked for everything I can see in her hands. I have given this although in many cases when this is asked for the person finds fault afterwards.



"UNE PARISIENNE."

"If "Lygia" will send fresh impressions of her hands at once, taking particular care to put the nom de plume on the back of impression, I will be glad to give her another reading as there seems to have been some mistake about the former one. I fear that it was one of those hands which was not properly labelled.

F. O. H. wishes to know where in the hand are refinement and gentleness shown. These are read from the entire character of the hand taken as a whole or at least of the palm, as are also the qualities of patience and perseverance. The latter are shown, however, partly by the distance between the head and life line at the start. Squares on the mount of the moon would show some protection at the period of life indicated by the connecting lines. If on the fate line the age would have to be reckoned according to the ages on that or if on the head line it would show some serious brain trouble at the age indicated. From the diagram sent it is impossible to tell exactly.

May I ask once more that you will seriously consider the conditions which I have mentioned above.

Digitus

ANOTHER READER HAS BEEN MAKING MONEY EASILY.

I noticed in a recent number of your valuable paper that one of your readers had been very successful selling Baird's Non-Alcoholic Flavoring Powders, and thought my experience would be interesting too. It is simply wonderful how much better these new fruit flavoring powders are than the liquid extracts sold in stores, when you stop to think they cost only about half as much. You use them for cakes, custards, candies, ice cream etc., just like the liquid. We used them ourselves and liked them so well that I wrote the manufacturers, W. H. Baird & Co., 247 Telephone Bldg., Pittsburg, Pa., for samples and tried selling them to my neighbors. I only commenced a short time ago, but the powders are fast becoming celebrated around here and I have built up a steady trade from regular customers, often making over $25.00 a week. I never knew of such an easy way to make money and I would recommend anyone having a little spare time to write this firm, for they are very generous in their dealings. R.L.C.



1500 SEWING MACHINES
SECOND-HAND Standard makes, $3 to $10. Shopworn or slightly used samples, $7 to $12. Three years on trial. New Machines ONE-FOURTH PRICE. Largest dealers in the world. Write for Bargain Offer. James L. Mead & Co., Dept. 17 B, Chicago

A NEW BLOOD CURE FREE.

A Trial Treatment Sent Privately By Mail Free To All Who Suffer.

There has been discovered by the State Medical Institute, 172 Bass Block, Ft. Wayne, Ind., the most remarkable blood cure ever heard of. It has cured all such indications of blood disease as mucous patches in mouth, sore throat, copper colored spots, ulcerations on the body and in hundreds of cases where the hair and eyebrows had fallen out and the whole skin was a mass of boils, pimples and ulcers this wonderful specific has completely changed the whole body into a clean, perfect condition of physical health. Every railroad running into Ft. Wayne brings scores of sufferers seeking this new and marvelous cure and to enable those who cannot travel to realize what a truly marvelous work the Institute *is* accomplishing, they will send free to every sufferer a free trial treatment so that everyone can cure themselves in the privacy of their own home. Do not hesitate to write at once and the free trial will be sent by mail sealed in a plain package.

Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than $5 every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a $20,000.00 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA

Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to $5.00 and upward; Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. We show a large line of suits at from $5.00 to $8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloonings, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Net Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $1.00 to $5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.

Rio, Wis., June 20th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than $80.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as $350.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.

Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 2c stamp for reply.
We have hundreds of letters similar to Mr. Doyle's.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK from us of AT LEAST $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, out out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

..... Sign your name on above line.

..... Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age .....

Married or single .....

Address your letters plainly to

..... On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

..... On above line give name of your nearest express office.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.



TWO COSTLY PRESENTS; You Get Both.

WE TRUST AGENTS with 12 new style, Stone Set, Enamel Scarf and Stick Pins, different patterns. Everybody wears them. Sell to your friends for 10 cents each, and we give you **Free** a Fine Gold or Silver laid Bracelet (with lock and key), also this magnificent **Solid Gold** laid Band Ring, handsomely engraved, a perfect beauty, wears a lifetime. Send name; no money required until pins are sold; we take all not sold. Address PEARL PIN CO., Providence, R. I.



FAT



How to Reduce It

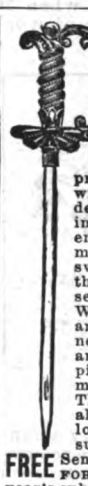
Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "I reduced my weight 2½ lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO. R Box St. Louis, Mo.

BLACKHEADS and Pimples removed in 2 to 4 days. Perfectly harmless, never fails. Send 10 cts. SPECIFIC REMEDY CO., Dept. K, Cleveland, Ohio.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME: $1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

MENDING TISSUE

Repairs all kinds of clothing. Woolen and Cotton, Silks and Satin, Kid Gloves, Umbrellas, Shoes and Rubbers. Better than needles and thread. One package lasts a whole family a year. You sell at 25 cents and every purchaser will recommend you to friends. Samples sent you for 10 cents. One dozen, 60c. Agents make money fast selling these. Address, HARTZ & GRAY, Box 407, NEW YORK, N. Y.



THE PIN OF THE PERIOD.

DEWEY SWORD STICK PIN.

When Dewey comes home every man, woman and child in the country will want to wear one of these beautiful gilt emblems. The elegant sword voted by Congress to be presented to Admiral Dewey is now all ready and will be presented to the hero of Manila by President McKinley as soon as Dewey reaches Washington, early in October. This beautiful gilt emblematic stick pin sword is very strongly made, the blade has a sharp point and as the sword is warranted never to tarnish, it makes the most appropriate and useful souvenir of the season. Each sword comes mounted on Red, White and Blue cards three inches square and are selling by the thousand. Men wear them for neck tie pins, women wear them for dress, scarf and shirt waist pins, children wear them for all pin purposes and they will not tarnish so are the most popular and useful "Pin of the period." These sword pins sell for 25c. each, but knowing all patriotic people would want them a large lot were ordered, so will give one free with a subscription.

FREE Send 12c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, and we will send one free; send 30c. for a year's subscription and we will send three all charges paid, you can sell two for 50c. and make money. One dozen pins sent, all charges paid, for only one dollar. Get them quick and make two dollars clear. Now don't wait but write at once whether you want one or one hundred. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!



Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by Oxien the triumph of medicine, the Godsend of the age. Absolute cures are now certain, and Oxien is making them every day. In this connection

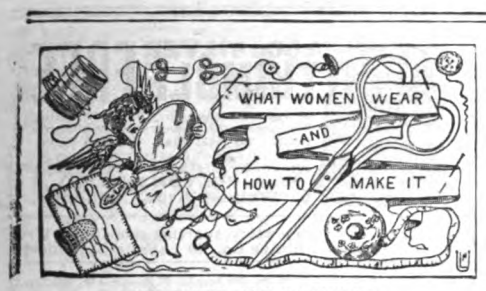
WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism**, frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism**, sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism**, which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica**, or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutcher (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. P. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. FREE. This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want a **box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IF ever there was a time when envy, hatred and malice, to say nothing of fully developed uncharitableness, were stirred up and likely to envelop all in a comprehensive wave, that time is now. How can it be otherwise? All around us are things of beauty we cannot possess—gowns of surpassing loveliness, hats of surprising extravagance and chic, jewels so rare and glittering that the purse and heart pour out their treasure before them, and yet are far from securing them. Choice of garments has become a burden to the soul, for where all is lovely, how to select the loveliest, and most difficult task of all, how to close one's eyes to the beauties that fade and be sternly virtuous in the selection of the things that "wear." The woman of limited means has a modern martyrdom before her, a discipline she will hardly relish, but which she cannot evade. Looking at the matter from all sides I should be inclined to think that her hardest task will lie in the selection of her cape or coat.

The shawl model at which we wondered and scoffed a year ago has revenged itself by ousting all other modes. In a greater or less degree every cape has a pointed back; if not actually and literally pointed, it is certainly far longer at the back than at the front.

Heresy as it is always deemed to cavil at what Madame la Mode may decree is fitting we should wear, I yet venture to assert that it takes a very well-dressed and essentially smart woman to carry these sloping wraps with any degree of distinction. Badly put on they reduce the wearer either to a general aspect of untidiness, or convert her into something quite the reverse of a thing of beauty. One point it is imperative should be considered for each individual and that is the position at which the curves of the trimmings are put—a little higher, or a little lower makes all the difference between a "May pole" effect and chic.

Like the mystic ladies of old we are to fade away into earth in voluminous folds which conceal the feet, and taper towards heaven with shoulders compressed into the most sloping of lines. The caricaturist has ample scope for his powers in the distant view or outline of a fashionable woman. It is only close acquaintance that reveals the loveliness of the creation which she wears, for it must be conceded that manufacturers have excelled themselves; if it were not so, some of the modes would be unsupportable. Eton jackets and shirt-waisted open-fronted coats find a large amount of favor for regular wear and all of them are made to fit into the figure at the waist, for this reason; sacque back garments have gone out of date.

Skirts continue to be quite tight-fitting around the front and over the hips, but there is slightly more fullness at the back and the prevailing idea among all the newest skirts is to have the center of the back seam completely closed up, the opening being at the left side seam; the best place for the pocket is in the back seam below the fullness of the figure.

Lace robes and silk gauzes are being very much used for fete gowns, the foundation being of glace or a soft make of Duchesse, called Oriental satin. If made to order, costumes of this kind run into a lot of money, but any one who has the time to spare and the inclination can produce one of these high-class costumes for a very small outlay. All that is needed is a good, reliable pattern of a foundation, on which the shaped out skirt is loosely arranged and the bodice pieces gathered over the tight-fitting foundation. Fifteen yards of glace or soft satin would be sufficient to make a skirt and bodice foundation, including a silk frill for decorating the hem of the skirt.

Fine quality French wool poplins are very much in favor for making up into better class gowns for wearing to church or various fashionable gatherings. Gray, orchid shades and stone colors are the most popular and the foundation is generally some brilliant hue that harmonizes with the shade of the dress.

A pretty Paris model is made up of pale gray poplin lined throughout with cerise glace silk: the sleeves and the square back and front of the bodice are all-over guipure lace, the rich



A SMART BODICE.

colored silk beneath showing through the meshes of the lace with a particularly pleasing effect; satin to match the gray material is used to swath the shoulders and outline the fullness of the figure, somewhat in the style of bolero. An eight inch circular flounce at the foot of the skirt is finished with two tiny bias ruffles, each edged with a tiny piping of gray satin.

At the present moment, when nine out of every ten women wear a lace bow beneath the chin, or if not actually lace, something of the kind, it is just as well for them to be told that every soft bow does not suit every face or every complexion, and that it is wise for a woman to find what special style of soft fluffiness does become her before embarking upon a purchase of it. As a rule, the cream colored lace bows are more becoming than those of dead white, and the soft silk bows, either plain or with tiny sprays of flowers on them are very charming.



FICHU EFFECT.

A very suitable gown for the season is presented here being tailor made, and yet having that chic which only the touch of the French can impart; the soft, fluffy vest of creamy mousseline de soie, laid in fine French tucks and tiny frills, and the revers of yellow lace instead of cloth, giving an air of grace and daintiness to the costume very pleasing to see. The long, trailing skirt has a habit back with the braided pattern outlining a jacket shape over the hips, running up either side of the open jacket front and finishing at the center of the back. The same trimming ornaments the foot of the skirt. The material chosen for this gown is a decidedly yellow shade of tan melton with a finish like velvet, while the braid is black picked out with white.

No end of smart bodices are being shown for



A SEASONABLE GOWN.

autumn wear before wraps are put on, all more or less showing combinations of silk, velvet, cloth and lace.

NERVES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HOW often do we hear the cry from some poor overworked, overworried woman "Oh, I am so nervous!"

Now, sister mine, I am going to free my mind to you on that subject. I know you are overworked, and your nerves are all unstrung, but what is the use of thinking of it, even? It does not mend matters, it only makes them worse.

When I was a girl in my teens I was as "nervous" as any one, but my wise and sensible mother never allowed me to say so, but always talked as if nerves were rather disgraceful things to own, and should be kept entirely in the background.

I shall never forget my first and only fit of hysteria, which occurred when I was about eighteen years old. I never had another, for this same wise and tender mother, when she had scolded and threatened me until I had succeeded, unaided, in regaining control of myself, fondled me into calmness while gently and clearly explaining what had been the matter with me, and the means which I should have taken to prevent the attack; and, fortified and enlightened by her counsels, I never again allowed myself to get into such a state.

I take no credit to myself that I am not now a nervous, hysterical woman. I attribute it wholly to my mother's wise, tender and watchful care of me; and I have the greatest pity for the many women who are helpless victims to hysteria in its many forms, and say to myself "Oh, why was there not some one to warn them in the beginning of the danger of giving way to their feelings!" When one has once given way it is easy to do it again; so I say to you *Don't do it*. Keep a firm hold of yourself to be calm and quiet. Above all else, don't worry over things. A little worry does more harm than a great deal of work. If you *can* help a trouble, do so, but if you cannot, do not spend your strength worrying about it. Turn your thoughts to something else. Try to keep your surroundings pleasant. Don't use a spluttering pen or a gritty pencil, a rusty or a blunt needle, or a pan or kettle that leaks and needs the constant application of twists of rag to the hole. Never have dull tools. Keep a small whetstone or grindstone in the kitchen, and see to it that knives and scissors are always sharp. Oil your creaking door-hinge, and pay prompt attention to the smallest cry from your sewing machine. Try to have an easy chair without rockers for your uneasy caller, and doctor the complaining joints of the rocking chair with a little oil or a drop of glue. If Johnnie's new shoes nearly drive you frantic with their squeak just take a small gimlet and bore a hole half way through the sole from the inside of the shoe. This gives a vent for the air between the layers of sole leather, and lo! the horrible sound is stilled.

All these things may be trifles, but it is generally the little things of life that rasp the overstrained nerves of the tired woman.

One thing more, and I have done. Always make a point of reserving to yourself some time in the course of the day, even if it is only fifteen minutes, when you can shut yourself up alone for a complete rest of mind and body. Lie down, close your eyes, fold your hands, and think of—nothing—for as long a time as you can spare from your other duties; for this, I assure you, is as much your duty as any other part of the day's doings. You have no idea, until you have tried it, how much this little rest will help you through the remainder of the day's trials, nor what a quietus it puts upon those troublesome "nerves."

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

AGENTS WANTED FOR "THE STORY OF TWO WARS."

The only Official, thoroughly Standard, High-class History of **both** wars, "OUR WAR WITH SPAIN" and "OUR WAR WITH THE FILIPINOS," complete in one superb volume. With fine Steel-Portraits of all our Military and Naval Leaders, large Colored Maps, and many choice Engravings. By **Hon. H. B. Russell,** and **ex-Secretary of War Proctor.** *Sold Exclusively by Agents.* A book that sells *fast* and pays *big.* Hundreds are earning **$100** a month and *more.* Now is the time. No capital required. Freights paid. The *best* and *surest* chance to *make money* ever offered to all who want *work that pays.* Write at once for terms and particulars to THE HARTFORD PUBLISHING CO., HARTFORD, CONN.

NO MONEY required with your order. Cut this ad. out and send us your order and we will send you this

Silk Plush Cape

Worth $10 for $3.50

Plush and Lining Guaranteed for two years. If it does not wear well we will send you a new cape free.



EXAMINE it at your express office; assure yourself that it is as great a bargain as you ever saw—**easily worth $10;** pay agent **$3.50** and cape is yours; or will forward it on receipt of price and 40c additional for expressage. Money refunded on request. **A Special Offer,** at an astonishingly low figure, made to increase our mailing list and spread our catalog.

This is a **New 1899 Swell Empire Cape, 22 in. long,** reaching 6 in. below waist, of real Silk Seal Plush, lined throughout with black merzerized Sateen, edged all around with black Russian curly Thibet fur, fully worth $10—our price—(give neck and waist measure).. **$3.50**

FREE—Our new fall catalogue No. 101, of Ladies' Jackets, Capes, Suits, Skirts, Waists and Furs. A Dictionary of Fashions, Illustrated in colors, a book worth having. A postal brings it FREE. Write immediately.

M. PHILIPSBORN, 138 State Street, CHICAGO.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Boys & Girls

We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 18 packages of **Royal English Ink Powder** at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you sell the **Ink Powder** send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. **We trust you.** Don't lose this grand opportunity. **Write for the outfit today.** Address all orders to **IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.**

WOMEN Wanted to open Corset Parlors. **Good wages.** $3 outfit free. Send 10 cts. for sample and terms. Dr. Nichols, New Canaan, Conn.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

ANGELS WHISPER Beautiful large picture colored; sells quick at 25c. sample 12c.; 9 for $1. J. LEE, Omaha Bldg., Chicago.

80 SQUARE INCHES SILK goods, different colors, for quilts, cushions, head rests, and fancy work, only 10 cts. J MFG. CO., BEAVER SPRINGS, PA.

A BIG OFFER **50c. MADE IN A MINUTE!** If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at **$50** or **$100** per month, let us know. **We pay in advance.** GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

FREE FOR ONE DAY'S WORK!



Imitation Diamond.

I will give your choice of these beautiful **Solid Gold** filled **Rings** warranted to wear for years for selling 15 packages of my **'U-N-X-L-D' Foot Powder at 10 cents** a package. It cures sore feet, makes walking easy, removes all odor, keeps the feet dry and warm and is a certain cure for chilblains; takes the sting out of corns and bunions, relieves hot, tired, aching feet, makes new shoes feel easy, will sell to every one. No money required in advance, send your name and address and I will mail you 15 packages, you sell and return **$1.50.** I will mail you the **Ring** selected; will take goods back if you cannot sell; will allow you a large cash commission if you prefer. This is a square offer. Address

E. JONES, 69 Pearl St., BOSTON, MASS.



Genuine Hungarian Opal

Beautiful Brooch

This Golden Pin set with A Sparkling Emerald **FREE.**



A forced sale finds us possessed with **nineteen hundred** of these elegantly embossed gold plated pins which we will give away with 15c. six months' trial subscription to **Golden Moments** our superb monthly. Although 87c. would be a low price for a Brooch of this kind at Jewelry stores, we want all to take our monthly and also admire the sparkle and brilliant effect of this **glistening emerald,** so make this wonderful offer while the Pins last. Send 15c. to-day and get the combination monthly and brooch free. **GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Me.**

A $1.00 ALVAH CAMERA FREE!

THIS NEW ALVAH CAMERA, COMPLETE WITH DEVELOPING OUTFIT

AND ALL MATERIALS FOR TAKING, MAKING AND DEVELOPING PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE SENT FREE AS A PRESENT TO ANY OF OUR SUBSCRIBERS OR READERS ON THE EASY CONDITIONS HEREINAFTER EXPLAINED.

THIS COMPLETE OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING. We get no money for it, but we give it to you free as a present in consideration of a very slight effort on your part. **Send us 24 months' subscription to COMFORT and enclose with your letter 50c., which will be payment in full for the subscription,** and our paper will be sent you for 24 months, and in addition to sending our paper for 24 months we will send you **by mail, all charges prepaid by us, this handsome new ALVAH CAMERA and complete outfit,** as illustrated and described below.

IF YOU ARE AN OLD SUBSCRIBER you can renew your subscription by this offer, simply state the fact, and your new subscription will commence from the date your present subscription expires. **IF YOU ARE AN OLD SUBSCRIBER** and do not wish to extend your subscription, **get the subscription of some friend or neighbor.**

UNDERSTAND YOU GET THIS COMPLETE CAMERA AND OUTFIT FOR NOTHING. All we ask is that you enclose fifty cents for 24 months' subscription to our paper.

THIS IS A REGULAR $1.00 ALVAH CAMERA, COMPLETE WITH DEVELOPING OUTFIT and all materials for making pictures. It is a camera that retails regularly at $1.00, and is in every way the equal of other cameras that retail at $1.00 without developing outfit and picture-making materials.

THE ALVAH CAMERA TAKES PHOTOGRAPHS, LANDSCAPES, AND ALL PICTURES 2X2 INCHES. It uses regular glass plates (not films). It comes with a complete outfit, so that you are not compelled to buy an outfit afterward.



The Camera and outfit are all securely packed in a box and consist of the following articles: **1 Alvah Camera, 1 Box Dry Plates, 1 Package Hypo, 1 Printing Rack, 1 Developing Tray, 1 Package Developer, 1 Package Silver Paper, 1 Set Directions, 1 Toning Tray, 1 Package Fixing Powder, 1 Package Ruby Paper.**

HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS OFFER.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TATTING has grown very popular of late. Twenty years or more ago it was in high favor, and this is not to be wondered at, for it is so delightful to make it, and the wearing qualities recommend themselves as being far ahead of the average fancy work,—reasons which in themselves are enough to make it a popular trimming; the only wonder is that it should ever have gone out of favor—or fashion—as it has.

For children's aprons, collars and underclothes it is unsurpassed in daintiness, and for decorative purposes such as tidies it is also desirable. An illustration herewith shows a section of a linen handkerchief which has a fulled ruffle of bobinet lace, at the top and bottom of which is a row of the smallest sized tatting loop,—making altogether a dainty, durable and odd handkerchief. The handkerchief itself may first be made, if so desired, by buying fine linen, cutting it by the thread into the size of square desired, and then hemstitching it. After this the tatting is sewn on, and then the footing is fulled onto the tatting, and lastly another row of tatting is sewed onto the edge of the footing. The footing is a narrow lace net that is woven with self edges,—some plain, and some with a dot. That about one and one-fourth inches wide costs five cents a yard.

We give directions for making a doiley, or tidy of tatting and the same directions may be used in several different ways for small, large, round, square, or diamond shaped doileys—according to the wish or ingenuity of the maker.

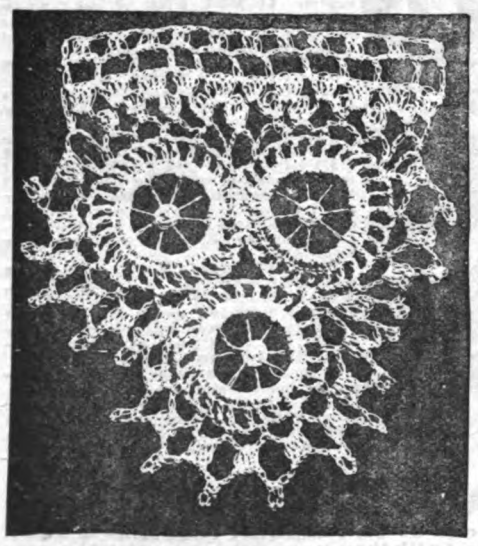


A DAINTY HANDKERCHIEF.

Make 16 rings in a row, each ring consisting of 6 d. s. and 5 p. Join rings in usual way; also join 16th ring to 1st ring thus forming a circle; fasten ring under last ring.

Make each ring of 2nd round with 12 d. s. and 5 p. separated by 2 d. s.; join the rings in the usual way. Make 1st. ring, draw up and join to 3rd p. in 1st ring in last round; join 2nd and 3rd rings to 2nd and 3rd rings in last round; join 4th and 5th rings to 4th ring in last round; continue in same way all round, always joining, 2 rings to every 4 rings in last round; there must be 20 rings in 2nd round. Make 3 more circles like the one just made and join the 4 to form a square. Then make a row of large and small rings all round the 5 circles. Take the shuttle and begin at one corner by making a small ring of 4 d. s. and 3 p; join 2nd p. to 3rd p. of ring in corner of circle, turn make a large ring, 16 d. s. and 7 p. separated by 2 d. s.; turn, make another small ring like 1st except that you join the 1st p. to last p. of 1st ring; finish ring, turn, make a small ring, join 1st p. to last p. of large ring, turn, make small ring, join 2nd p. to 3rd p, of 2nd ring of circle, turn and continue making large and small rings until you have joined 7 small rings on the side of a corner circle; then make 5 small rings in the inside of row to the next circle; then join 14 small rings around the 2nd corner; continue on side as before and so on around the square. There must always be a small ring between each 2 large rings on the outside circle, and always a small ring between every 2 that are joined to circle; join last ring to 1st in usual way.

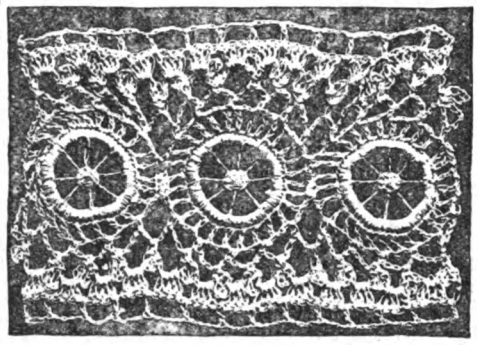
The next 2 rounds are composed of wheels. Each wheel has a center ring and 10 small surrounding rings. Make center with 11 d. s. and 10 p., draw up, make small ring with 6 d. s. and 5 p. join 3rd p. to 4th p. of 1st large ring



CROCHET TRIMMING.

on corner of last row, finish ring, draw up, join to 1st of p. of center. Make 9 more, joining each ring in usual way; also join each ring to center and the last ring to 1st; fasten thread under wheel.

Now leave 1-2 inch of thread, make 2nd wheel like 1st except join 1st and 2nd rings to 4th and 3rd rings of last wheel; make 3rd ring, then join 4th ring to next large ring in last round; finish wheel like 1st which makes 2 wheels on corner. Make 3rd wheel, join 1st 2 rings to last wheel, make 3rd ring, skip 1 large ring in last row and join 4th ring to next large ring; finish wheel. Always skip a large ring in last row between each wheel, until you reach 3 large rings on corner; then join a wheel to each large ring around corner; then make next side like last. Continue all around on last corner, and join a wheel to last large ring so there will be 3 wheels on corner. Join last wheel to 1st in usual way. Fasten the thread under the wheel, and make last round of wheels same as 1st round, except that you join 1st wheel to wheel on side; finish wheel same as last row. Make 2nd wheel, join 1st ring to 3rd ring in last wheel, join 3rd wheel to next wheel of last row, and finish it. Continue joining wheel to each wheel on side until you reach 3 wheels on corner, join a wheel to 1st wheel on corner, then make 1 wheel without joining, then join 1 to corner wheel, then make a wheel again without joining, and so



CROCHET INSERTION.

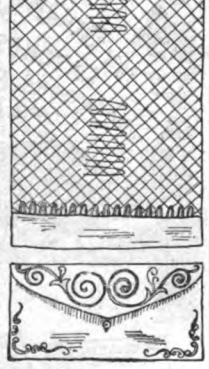
continue until the doily has as many rows as is desired.

Mrs. Darrow, of Minneapolis, has sent us directions for making a very pretty crochet edge, with insertion to match, and which we also illustrate. She says:

"This makes a handsome trimming for aprons; one could be trimmed with the insertion only. I use No. 30 Coats' thread. To make the rings put the thread on the fore finger of the left hand just below the nail and wind around the finger 30 times; slip this coil off, hold it between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, crochet s. c. stitch all around the ring, keeping the stitches close together, draw thread through the first s. c. stitch. Make 5 ch, slip 1 s. c. and make 1 tr., 2 ch, skip 1 s. c. and tr. in stitch; repeat until you have worked all around the ring. Cut the thread, leaving 3 inches of thread to fasten into thick part of rink; cut thread close. With a needle and thread make a spider stitch in center of each ring; the first ring is finished entirely; the others are joined according to illustration.

The insertion is joined in straight rows according to illustration, crocheting edges on each side. Another way to make trimming with the rings is to join as for insertion, but don't crochet any edge; instead, baste smoothly on cloth, sew the edges down; then make button-hole stitch over the edge, top and bottom, onto cloth. Cut away the cloth that is under the rings. This makes a handsome insertion. For an edge sew the row of rings on to the edge of hem or cloth so that one-half of ring comes below, then button-hole the top edge on; then cut away the cloth that is under the ring and crochet an edge on the bottom of rings. There is a great variety of ways to use the rings; they make a handsome yoke for nightdress or wrapper; or use only in front of yoke making a deep point or square in front of yoke, having a large collar turning back from it. A cluster of these would be pretty on a pincushion, or doiley, and are just the thing to use in Battenburg lace.

Our illustration of a hairpin case, shows something quite novel and very convenient, especially for traveling. The case measures about 15 inches by 5 inches, and is made of linen in gray, lined with light blue silesia, and over the silesia is white, stiff net. One end of the case is turned up for a couple of inches, thus forming a pocket, into which the larger hairpins are stuck. The other end is finished off with a point and a small loop of narrow ribbon. The small invisible hairpins are run in and out of the net, in the case, and so kept in place and the whole case is folded over several times until it is about the size of an envelope. The outside may be decorated by embroidery or by a conventional design in water color, and a small button should be put on over which the loop fastens. This is a small, flat article when filled and folded, and so takes up little room in a hand bag, and it does keep track of the hairpins in a most admirable fashion.



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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE ART of carving should be mastered by every man, and women would do well, also, to be well up in it—for when the head of the house is absent it of course falls to the housewife to do this, and of course she should be able to do it gracefully and well, as she does everything else.

Thomas J. Murrey, an authority on carving, gives us the following suggestions:

In the first place, the carving knife *must* be sharp; it is impossible to carve otherwise,—though of course the meat may be hacked off—and the temper of the carver should be preserved at all hazards.

The carver should of course have a chair that is higher than those used by the rest of the family, as it is exceedingly awkward to carve when sitting in a low chair before a high table. The carver's elbow should be about on a line with the table. Hold the knife gracefully but firmly, with the *thumb* extended over the back of the knife, instead of the *forefinger*, as the control over the knife is much greater.

In carving a sirloin of beef, the thickest end is placed toward you; then run the point of the knife along the flat bone at the right, and cut in about an inch deep; then cut slices from the right side. Roasting pieces of beef such as rump, round and rolled meat, should be carved *across the grain*.



A TEMPTING MORSEL.

The saddle of lamb is the choicest of spring meats. To carve, a shank holder of some kind should be used. Leading silversmiths make one which is useful and ornamental,—but for those of us who cannot have all the conveniences for sale, a white paper, or small napkin, wrapped around the bone, may be substituted. Cut from the outer side of the leg, and lengthwise of the leg a good sized slice. This prevents the leg from moving around on the platter, and brings the inner or thickest part conveniently before the carver. Hold the shank firmly and cut into the center of the leg to the bone. Slice all from the thickest part before starting on the lower part.

By the term Leg of Lamb we usually mean having the loin attached. If the family is small, cut off the loin for chops and roast the leg which is carved much the same as the saddle.

The carving of a leg of veal is a simple matter. Place on a large platter, the thicker end toward the right and the shank to the left. Carve slices from the thick side of the leg bone first and then from the other side, keeping the face of the joint as even as possible.

The sucking pig is one of the easiest dishes to carve, and yet few men *like* to tackle it until they have had considerable experience. The pig should be served whole, with the head towards the right hand. First cut off the head and split it in two. Split the body down the back and place the parts on the dish, crackling side up. Cut off the fore legs with blade attached; next cut off the hind quarters and divide the ribs, and serve a little stuffing with each piece. Apple sauce is usually served with roast pig—or a dish of small baked apples.



BRER RABBIT.

The domestic duck is the most exasperating fowl to carve. Place on the platter with the tail towards the carver. Insert the fork in the left side close down to the backbone. First cut three thin slices from the right side of the breast, then cut off the wing, which is only in the way. Continue carving the breast until the wishbone gets in the way. Then carve the other side in same manner. The legs may be served but are not very dainty and are usually left for the servants.

The foregoing applies in a general way to the carving of a goose. The stuffing should not be served, as it is so thoroughly soaked with goose grease.

TO CARVE A HAM.

When a whole ham appears on the table its appearance should first be improved by trimming off considerable of the fat around the edges. To carve a whole ham, make an incision in the thickest part of the ham, down to the bone, and work towards the large end. The knife used for carving ham should be very thin and very sharp, so that the slices will be thin and even. Where a family is small one or two slices may be taken off the ham before it is boiled, to be used for frying.

To carve a canvas-back duck, each guest is supposed to receive half of the plump flesh of the breast—but in families the breast may be divided into four pieces, as otherwise the meal would be too expensive for the ordinary family.



IN THEIR NATURAL ELEMENT.

Place the duck on the platter, breast side up, with the head from you. Insert the fork through the center of the wishbone. Make the first cut along the right-hand side of the ridge, keeping close to it, and cut down to the flat breast-bone; follow this and free the meat from the lower part of the breast and work up to the shoulder and separate the meat there. Carve left side in same manner.

SPRING CHICKEN.

To know when a broiler is fat and juicy, examine the backbone; the greater the amount of fat there, the fatter will be the chicken all over. A roasted chicken is placed on the table with the head from you; the first cut is a slight one on the right breast down to the wing, and without removing the knife the wing is removed. Then the leg is cut off and then the wing and leg on the other side. Cut the breast in two, by separating it from the back; turn the breast and cut it in two from the inside.

One of our readers sent us, some time ago, the following recipes—which are a little out of the ordinary, for which reason we give them:

DAMSON SWEET PICKLE.

"To one pound of damsons put three-fourth pound granulated sugar, half pint vinegar, and mace, cloves, cinnamon, allspice and ginger to your taste. Boil sugar, vinegar and spices together, and pour over the fruit. Scald the syrup every other day for three days; the last day add the fruit and cook until the fruit pops open. It keeps well if good vinegar is used.

DAMSON JELLY.

In making above pickle there is much more syrup made than is needed to cover the pickle. Strain out the surplus and to each pint add one pound of white sugar and boil rapidly till it jellies. It is delicious.

To make good rolls or bread quickly take very sour, thick buttermilk that has stood till all the whey has risen and been poured off. Make a dough as for soda biscuit, except add a little sugar and twice the usual quantity of soda; knead well, make into loaves or rolls, let rise and bake. Mother uses this recipe altogether and the bread is light, sweet and as good as that from yeast."

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The watermelon was cultivated in Egypt B. C. 2500. It grows wild all over Africa.

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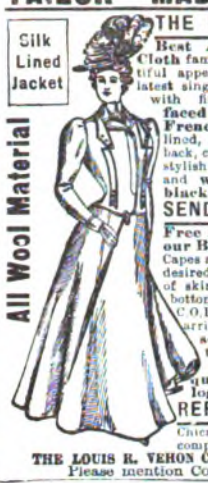
Free trial packages of a most remarkable remedy are being mailed to all who will write the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back, varicocele, or emaciation of parts can now cure themselves at home.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that come from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 730 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., stating that you desire one of their free trial packages will be complied with promptly. The Institute is desirous of reaching that great class of men who are unable to leave home to be treated and the free sample will enable them to see how easy it is to be cured of sexual weakness when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a free sample, carefully sealed in a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarrassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.

TAILOR MADE SUIT $5.98

Silk Lined Jacket

All Wool Material



THE SUIT is made by Expert Men Tailors from **Ford's Best All Wool Fast Color Ladies' Cloth** famous for its rich, soft bloom and beautiful appearance. **The Jacket** is made in latest single breasted style, superbly trimmed with fine satin bands, **beautifully silk faced and elegantly lined with real French silk.** The skirt is lined and interlined, has nobby welted seams, new style back, cut full width and hangs graceful and stylish. **Guaranteed** strictly tailor made and **worth fully $10.00.** Choice of **black** or **blue** colors.

SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. and **we'll send Free a large sample of the cloth and our Big Catalog** of other Suits, Jackets, Capes and Skirts, or send us **$1,** with color desired, give bust and waist measure, length of skirt down front from skirt band to bottom and we'll express the suit to you C.O.D., subject to examination; when it arrives examine it carefully, **try it on, see that it fits perfect,** then pay the express agent the balance ($4.98 and expressage). **Send today quick for free sample and catalogue or suit.**

REFERENCES The Royal Trust Co. Bank, Chicago, any Chicago wholesale house or any express company in America.

THE LOUIS R. VEHON CO., 157 W. Jackson St., CHICAGO.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

AGENTS WANTED for Dr. Worst's Scientific Catarrh Inhaler. Sample free. $75 a month easily made. **Dr. WORST, Ashland, O.**

MRS. DeMORT, Box OZ, Toledo, O., sends valuable toilet recipes to ladies **FREE**

SPECTACLES at wholesale. Send for catalog. Agents wanted. **COULTER OPTICAL CO. Chicago, Ill.**

SAY have you read the **ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.'S** notice to Agents on last page. You can't afford to miss it. It is the greatest offer to Agents ever made by any firm on earth.

$7 PAID Per 100 and Expenses for distributing samples of ammonia. Send 6c stamps for cert. A. W. SCOTT, Coburn, N. Y. **ALSO**

FREE To one reliable person in every town or village, a 56-piece Dinner Set. **P. F. Co., Box 2617, N. Y. C.**

YOUR LIFE FORETOLD, written prediction of your life. Send age, sex, lock of hair, 10 cents. **PROF. G. RUPPERT, Boston, Mass.**

$200 in Gold FREE

We will show you how to get $200 in gold free, besides giving you your choice of a valuable list of premiums, such as a Silverware Service, Photo Camera, Silver Teapot, Silver Tea Set, Gold Watches, etc., if you will devote a few hours of your spare time to our business. Send stamp for particulars. Bay State Drug & Chemical Co., 7 Central St., Boston, Mass.



FREE NO MONEY WANTED

from your own pocket. BOYS, GIRLS and LADIES send your full address, *plainly written* and we will mail you 12 packages of our sweet and fragrant AMERICAN BEAUTY PERFUME (in sachet form) to sell among friends at 10 CENTS each. When sold remit us the money, and we will forward postpaid for your work, all of the following elegant presents, viz: Latest Style Sterling Silver-plated NETHERSOLE BRACELET, also a beautiful Gold Plated Ladies' NECK CHAIN, and a handsomely Engraved Gold Shell BAND RING, together with an imitation DIAMOND SCARF or Stick Pin, provided you dispose of the Perfume and make returns within THIRTY DAYS. Order 12 packages at once and address, **AMERICAN TRUST CONCERN, No. 100 Trust Building, BRIDGEWATER, CONN.**





IF all the strange parcels that find their way into the mail bags, one in the shape of a cocoanut is the strangest ever received in the vicinity of Boston, Mass. A parcel of this shape came to the Boston Herald, from a Boston man traveling in Cuba. It was too large to go into the mail bag, however, and was carried by hand to its destination, from the postoffice. Stamps amounting to 26 cents were pasted directly onto the pod, the name and address were written on the nut itself. It came through in good shape, and one could plainly hear the milk swishing around inside.

Silk, be it ever so badly creased, may be restored by sponging with alcohol and water, and afterwards rolled tightly around picture rollers and left to dry for several hours. A clean deal board or table should be used for the sponging, and the application of the sponge should be made with some force so that the creases may become thoroughly wet. Silk should never be ironed.

The most complicated and wonderful typewriter in the world has lately been invented by an American missionary in China. It prints four thousand distinct characters, which number are absolutely necessary for transacting business in the Chinese language. It takes four motions to print each character, but even then much time is saved, for in writing the Chinese characters from two to twenty-five strokes of the brush are required. Each character represents not a single letter but an entire word.

A PURE ALUMINUM PENCIL. FROSTED SILVER FINISH.

A beautiful automatic pocket pencil made of pure aluminum, the lightest, toughest and longest wearing metal in existence. *Looks like frosted silver* and will wear for five years, has rubber on end and movable lead. Makes a handsome present and is rich and distinguished looking when taken from pocket or desk. Will send one free if you will immediately send seven cents for mailing charges and a trial three months' subscription to GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST 50 cents a year. Sample copy free on application.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

HAIR LIKE THIS



WE WILL FORWARD ---FREE-- To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp for sealed package. Address **Lorrimer & Co., 331 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.**

THE MAGICAL SPONGE.
THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY.
For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin.
For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.



A **Labor-Saving** device entirely new and **universal in demand.** Will last a lifetime and costs but **Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross** sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The **Magical Sponge** differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of **vegetable origin** and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a **mineral production** and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the **Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers,** and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the **winter time** it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning **Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces,** it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a **Clean, Polished Surface.**

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. **To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers,** who send us 25 cents for a 3 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory.

Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

WE ARE

Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say $25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address,

G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Well, dears, the summer months are gone and I hope you have all had a nice cool time with plenty of hammocks and pleasant books and a few beaus, for those of you who are out of your teens and your bibs. The autumn is coming apace and with it we must go to work again, and after all, I think we are happier while we are busy than while we are doing nothing, or doing just enough to keep from going to sleep. But I mustn't talk too much. I have work to do this very minute and let us begin it.

The first letter this month is from Love, Griffin, Ga., and Cousin Love wants to know if after an engagement of three years and two postponements of the wedding she should continue it or stop. Stop by all means. If courtship is thus uncertain and unsatisfactory, just think what marriage will be. (2) Have nothing to do with the jealous man who wants all your thought and company, and gives you only as much of his as suits him.

Sweet Sixteen, Milton, W. Va.—A girl of sixteen might marry a man of forty and the marriage be an ideal one, but the chances are that it would not. There is no rule governing this kind of thing. (2) There is no definite age when man is most "capable of the responsibilities of married life." Some men are so at twenty-one and some are not so at any age. A man of thirty with a competence, good disposition and sense ought to be just right.

Marjorie, Aurelia, Iowa.—It is proper enough for girls of fourteen to accept the attentions and courtesies of young men that girls of twenty might, but it is not advisable. Girls of fourteen ought to be studying and preparing for womanhood.

Inquirer, Pineville, Ky.—Write to Civil Service Commissioner, Washington, D. C., or inquire of your Member of Congress.

Vina B., Storm Lake, Ia.—It is not proper for a woman who is getting a divorce from her husband, no matter what kind of a man he is, to accept the attentions of other men. She should get her divorce first.

A. B. C., Nashville, Ill.—Meet the young man pleasantly, cordially and naturally, and he will understand if he wants to. If he doesn't want to, don't you think you haven't done all that is necessary, for you have.

Debutante, Templeton, Cal.—Other things being equal you may have a good complexion by taking exercise in the open air, and eating, bathing and dressing properly. (2) A girl of seventeen should dress in the simplest way possible at any entertainments she attends. Elaborate party dress is for older persons. (3) I know of no way to treat the man who will neglect his affianced for some other girl, except for his affianced to send him adrift promptly. (4) I can not suggest topics of conversation for you and the young men who call on you. Why do you have callers if you don't know what to talk to them about? (5) Yes, men like to be "fussed over". Make them think they are everything and you are nothing, and they will have the greatest admiration for your good sense, fine taste, and discriminating judgment.

Fay, Windsor, N. C.—No, it is not right for a girl of seventeen to call her sweetheart, "dear", unless she is engaged to him—and she oughtn't to be engaged at seventeen. (2) Really, Cousin Fay, I do not know what a "hun-pup" is, but I should say that it is the young of a hun-dog, if you know what that is. I don't. Ask the slangy young man from whom you heard it.

Eider Down, Worthington, Ky.—It is a pretty little courtesy to thank an usher for a seat, or a conductor, or any one who assists you. (2) There is no rule about thanking an escort for his services. Say anything you think best and when you think best. (3) Have as little as possible to do with the man who tries to be familiar.

H. F. S., Ohio.—A man of twenty-eight is not too old for a girl of seventeen, but a girl of seventeen is too young for a man of any age. Wait until he is thirty-one and you are twenty.

Cathie, Enfield, Ills.—As far as I know, there is no such "nursery" as you ask for. (2) It is proper to shake hands with a man when he is presented if you want to. (3) The camping party is all right if properly chaperoned, and it makes a very pleasant outing.

H. M. K., Saginaw, Mich.—It is difficult if not almost impossible to find remunerative work to do at home. I don't know about the firms asked for, but it is generally wise to know what you are going to get before you spend any money for it.

Peach, Earling, Iowa.—The form of introduction is: Miss So-and-so let me present Mr. So-and-so. You can say "introduce" instead of "present" if you wish. Either one may speak first after the introduction. (2) It is more correct for strangers to speak to each other when facing each other in a crowded street car than if they sat with their backs to each other. Why should it be? (3) The lady should not accept a bunch of sweet peas, however lovely they be, or any other flowers, from a strange man. (4) The most graceful dancers learn in childhood.

E. B., Springtown, Ark.—Cards are not customary at small, informal weddings. Written or verbal invitations will answer and they should be given a week or ten days previously, or even less than that. The bride pays for the cards. The bride's father, mother or a friend should ask the cleryman to officiate. Wear the traveling suit, hat and gloves to match. The brown is preferable to duck or crash.

Rachael, Smoky Row, Va.—It would not be etiquette for the gentleman to tell the lady that her skirt was hanging out of the buggy, so much as it would be the plain, every day, common-sense thing to do. (2) A lady should say "Yes" when asked to go driving, if she wants to go. She should thank the man for taking her after they get back safely.

Pearl H., Wheelock, Texas.—I have lost the addresses, too. Look over the advertising columns of your nearest city papers and write to any music firm for the information you want, inclosing a stamp for reply.

J. W., Hot Springs, Ark.—Wear any kind of dark, plain material for the seashore, getting something rather heavier than ordinary summer stuff worn in the interior. Take about what you would take for a visit of the same length anywhere else, except a heavier garment or two in case of cool weather which is commoner at the seashore than elsewhere.

There now, that is all, and I will say by-by till the glorious month of October comes in its robes of crimson and gold, when I hope to greet you all again.

COUSIN MARION.

PLACER MINES AND MINING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE usual method of placer mining—the method that has been used by all gold-seekers from time immemorial, was simple in the extreme. The miner merely put some of the gold-bearing gravel in a shallow pan, mixed it with water, and then holding the pan in both his hands, gave it a slight rotary motion, slopping out a little sand at every revolution. The gold contained in the gravel, being heavier than the sand, sank to the bottom of the pan. Of course this could only be carried out on a small scale, and another method was also popular. In this the gravel, or "pay-dirt" as it was called, was poured in a shallow stream over a platform covered with blankets or skins. The gold stuck to the blanket while the lighter sand flowed off with the water.

Another way was to pour the pay-dirt and water into a sluice, catching the gold on ridges along the bottom. In 1852 one of the California miners set up a contrivance on his claim which was destined to develop into the magnificent hydraulic engines of to-day. He built a flume extending from a ditch in the hillside over the ravine where his mine was opened, thus giving the water a head of about forty feet. Here the stream fell into a barrel, from the bottom of which depended a hose about six inches in diameter, made of cowhide, and ending in a nozzle made of tin, about one inch in diameter at the tip. The water rushed through this tube with great force, dislodging the gravel and hurrying it down through the sluice built for the purpose.

The value of this invention was at once recognized and large hydraulic machines were built, with the tubes of iron, capable of sending a stream through a pipe two and one-half feet in diameter and with an eight inch nozzle, with force enough to move boulders weighing over two tons. One of these streams will throw a five hundred pound boulder all around, and would kill a man instantly. The water issues with such force from the pipe that it is impossible to cut the stream with a bar or an axe. There have been cases where miners have met their death by being struck by one of these streams at a distance of one hundred and fifty or two hundred feet from the nozzle.

The great difficulty the mining companies have had to meet is the lack of proper water supply. In order to secure enough water to feed these big engines millions of dollars have been spent in building flumes and reservoirs. In some instances corporations have built from two hundred and fifty to three hundred miles of ditches and flumes, and spent over $2,000,000 before any of the actual work of mining could be done. Some claims otherwise valuable cannot be worked on account of lack of water, while on the other hand a company blessed with a good water supply declared a dividend on gravel that only contained three cents' worth of gold to the cubic yard.

Modern hydraulic mining is carried on with such care and economy that the amount of gold lost in washing is hardly worth considering. The powerful stream is turned on the side of the mountain and the rocks, boulders, gravel, sand and gold all rush down and through the sluice boxes. These are arranged with ridges in the bottom. As the stream rushes on the gold sinks to the bottom, where it is caught behind the "ripples", as the ridges are called. Behind these ripples mercury is poured, which unites with the gold. At intervals, which vary according to the richness of the mine, there is a "clean up." The water is turned off, and the mercury which is combined with the gold there forming an "amalgam", is collected in buckets and the greatest care is taken that none is lost, the miners even exploring the cracks and nail holes in the sluice with silver spoons. The amalgam in the buckets is now well stirred, and as the coarse sand and other foreign substances that have remained rise to the top, they are carefully skimmed off. The amalgam is next strained to rid it from free quicksilver, and is then washed in a hot bath of water and sulphuric acid.

When properly purified the amalgam is put in a retort, and the top tightly sealed, except for a tube leading into a bucket of cold water. The heat vaporizes the mercury, which passes into the condenser, where it again resumes its liquid state and is ready to be used again. When the mercury has all been vaporized the retort is opened, and there is found the reward for all the trouble and work, a cone of pure gold ready for the mint.

Most of the placer mines employ two gangs of men, who work night and day. The profits of course depend upon the richness of the gravel and the expense of operating the mine. In this as in all gold mining there is a strange element of chance, which adds a touch of excitement to the otherwise hard and monotonous work.

Many of the best placer mines to-day are located in Montana, a country so wild that one who has not been there can hardly realize the extent of uncivilized country. A true incident related by a traveler on his way to one of these mines will illustrate this. On the stage-road a miner had been picked up. Two days before, while encamped on the mountain, he heard what he supposed was a panther howling in the night. He reached for his rifle and in stepping out of the door caught the trigger in the tent flap. The rifle was discharged and blew the fingers off one of the miner's hands. He started at once for the nearest town. All night and all the next day were spent in getting to where he had left his horse. Then after riding another whole day he reached the stage road. He rode a day in the stage to the railroad crossing, waited half a day for the next train, which did not reach a town large enough to boast a doctor for another whole day. Five days after the accident happened before his wound could be dressed!

$3.00 a day sure. Without a doubt a great opportunity. For particulars see last page of this paper.

SENT FREE TO MEN

Geo. B. Wright Was Restored to Health and Makes a Generous Offer to Every Sufferer from Lost Manhood.

Gratitude is one of the noblest impulses of the human heart, and in few instances has this fine quality been so conspicuously exemplified as in the case of George B. Wright of Marshall.



Mr. Wright is a merchant and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years. He now devotes his life to helping other men who suffer as he once suffered. Mr. Wright offers to send the medical prescription that effected a cure in his case to every reader of COMFORT, who is suffering to-day. All who will write him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of any charge whatever.

Mr. Wright says no one can appreciate the horrors of lost manhood except he has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers unless he knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. Mr. Wright's case was an extreme case. He suffered for many years. He saw his physical powers go from him as the result of insidious disease until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

He asserts that his 10 years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night, through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will not only brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself, but will restore the parts to their original size and vigor.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him little to do so, and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, box 810, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

$1.00 PAID FOR CORRECT ANSWERS

VEGETABLE PUZZLE.

1. TEBE.
2. ANEB.
3. NOINO.
4. NIPRUT.
5. HQASUS.
6. BACBCEA.
7. TELUCET.
8. ARHSID.

We will give **$1.00 in Cash** to anyone who can arrange these eight groups of letters into the names of eight **well-known Garden Vegetables.** Each group of letters when properly arranged, spells the name of a **common garden vegetable** which is used as an **article of food.** You can only use each letter in its own group and only as many times as it appears in its own group. Altogether there are **eight groups** and **eight correct names,** so if you can arrange the letters into the eight names of the garden vegetables, we will give you **$1.00 in cash.** Understand however that we have one condition, which may take a few hours of your time, and we will write you about it when you send your answer. **HOW CAN WE DO THIS?** We make this **liberal offer** so that you may become **interested in our business. We want you to work for us** in your own locality, and propose to **make it an object** for you to do so. Distance from us does not make any difference. **Try and Win,** but **do not send any money** with your answer. It looks like an easy task, yet it is a test of skill. We make this generous offer to every reader of this paper who can solve this puzzle. It is straight business with us. As soon as we get your answer, we will notify you if the names you send are the correct ones, and will also inform you fully of the work which we wish done that will enable you to win. Write at once, **giving** your full **name and address plainly.**

COLONIAL TRADING COMPANY, - Boston, Mass.



TEA SET FREE

56 PIECES.

Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only **six** boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 56 piece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. **AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. P, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.**

2,400 Dozen Pairs Fine Hosiery FREE



We have secured at forced sale 2,400 dozen pairs of ladies' fine hose which we propose to clear out within six weeks by giving them away with our Illustrated Fashion Journal in order to advertise & introduce it into new families. The old reliable Fashion Journal of New York is a complete family journal in every particular, the fashion department is unexcelled; with every issue we give beautifully illustrated patterns all latest styles with complete instructions **free** —contains household hints, fascinating stories & stands in first rank among metropolitan journals. The hose are heavy warm, well-made fashionable goods, in fast colors. All popular shades, cardinal, navy blue, seal brown, black, slate, tan, in fact colors & styles to suit all tastes. There is no need of paying from 25 to 75 cents for a pair of fall & winter hose when you can get a **dozen** for nothing. **Positively,** the entire lot (2,400 dozen pairs) to be given away during next 60 days for regular subscriptions. **Or Better Still,** we will send the Illustrated Fashion Journal 6 months **free** to 2,400 persons who will answer this advertisement at once & send us the address of 20 newspaper readers from different families. We are determined to lead the race in useful premiums, hence this liberal inducement; it's a colossal offer & will not appear again. If you accept it send **10 cts.** silver or stamps to help pay postage, mailing, etc., and your order will be filled same day it's received. Address **Illustrated Fashion Journal, Station D, Box 35, Dept. 327, New York City.**
N.B.—A dozen gents' hose given if desired in place of ladies. When you write be sure to mention size & colors wanted

SILK Scraps, large pkg. 10c. 400 Quilt Pattern Diagrams 10c. 100 crazy stitches with order. Ladies' Art Co., B. 5, St. Louis, Mo.

CLAIRVOYANCE free. If sick, **Send Now**—your name, age, sex, lock of hair, and 2 stamps, to DR. D. HINKLY, X 10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

C. S. A. MONEY Circulars free. Address P. E. Cheney, Box 6, Mutual, Ohio.

OPIUM HABIT AND MORPHINE Cured at home. Trial Free. No pain. Comp. Oxygen Ass'n, Fort Wayne, Ind.



FREE. NON-EXPLOSIVE NIGHT LAMP.

We will send you one of these Lamps with Nickle base, fine handsome pleated shade, chimney etc., all complete if you will send us 15 cents for a six months' trial subscription to our great monthly "SUNSHINE" either in your own or a friend's name. We want '99 to be the banner year for our list and offer this great premium as an inducement for you to take our paper right along. You can make money offering the **New Lamp** and **Exquisite Perfumery** with new subscribers. Send 15c. at once and we send sample combined Bottle Perfume and this Ornamental and Petite Lamp. Two Lamps and subscriptions and two lots of Perfumery for 25c. order quick and get agents' terms and low cash discounts in big lots. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Me.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE LUNATION or new moon which occurs at about 6 minutes past 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th of October, Washington mean time, the last degrees of the sign Capricorn will be rising and the 18th degree of Scorpio will be culminating. The lunation falls in the 8th house within five degrees of both Mercury and Venus, all in the sign Libra which is the home of Venus. The luminaries so placed are without affliction and are in benevolent aspect even with the malevolent planets.

The general indications of the scheme are favorable, though there will be a continuance of martial activity and strong inclinations towards strife for national interests. The warlike spirit will prevail and there will be some unusual contention through diplomatic channels. The malefics are all elevated but highest of all is Jupiter the "Greater Fortune", and the antagonistic inclinations of the government will be tempered by his emanations in ways that are just and benevolent though possibly severe in execution. Jupiter has just passed the south meridian, and in that position the ancients tell us the "king and superiors shall be good and shall honor his or their people and do justice generally and impartially and they shall thrive under their government and be successful."

The great malefics indicate some dissension among politicians over Congressional matters or with reference to continuance or succession in office. The lunation in the 8th house, notwithstanding it suffers no affliction, suggests a warning to the female members of the families of the principal executive authorities of the government, indicating a serious affliction if nothing worse, of some lady of prominence among the first ladies of the land. Some unusual fluctuations in the stock markets are to be looked for from the 7th to the 12th, when also the monied institutions have some flurries of excitement or adopt some measures creating some disturbance in monetary circles.

Mars overtakes Jupiter about the 10th of the month and there is likely to be some unhappy development in church affairs or a religious dispute which provokes public comment, nor would it be strange if there should be some popular indignation or excitement over atrocious acts towards Christians in foreign climes. The conjunction of those two planets is to be attended with earth tremors or disturbances in the vicinity of Turkey and Arabia.

The lunation is likely to give some periods of unusual heat with heavy mists and fogs with showers, in the first ten days of the month, though altogether the times are both healthful and pleasant.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER, 1899.

OCTOBER 1—Sunday. Avoid the society of eccentric persons and do not engage the mind in metaphysical discussions or antiquarian researches; the day is peculiarly mischievous for digestive troubles and for acceleration of diseases of the liver and bowels; the evening is active and energetic and improves matters in all directions, especially those of a social character.

2—Monday. Be up betimes; be active and diligent in business and urge all honorable pursuits to the utmost; deal with bankers, judges, lawyers and persons of means and prominence; seek money accommodations and buy goods for trade; all in the early part of the day; the afternoon is less to be depended upon and surely ought not to be used for any transaction concerned with land or buildings; nor should any new matter be inaugurated after three o'clock.

3—Tuesday. The forenoon is not auspicious for any of the great moves in life and the pennies will need to be watched that they do not "take to themselves wings" needlessly or fruitlessly. As the noon is passed, however, give all thine energies to the prosecution of literary and artistic matters; do important correspondence and travel; have social and musical entertainments and look for pleasure from the drama.

4—Wednesday. The day is promising and business of all kinds should be urged to the utmost; preferences may be given to such as depend for success upon mental labor; the afternoon is especially favorable for literary matters and for prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies; let contracts affecting legal and educational matters be made; merchants and tradesmen are particularly favored.

5—Thursday. Another day of excellent promise, inviting travel, business activity, and enterprise; the fine arts are encouraged in an eminent degree and architectural and horticultural matters should be pushed vigorously; purchase goods for trade; have money transactions; bargain for houses and lands and deal in such commodities as wood, coal, lumber, grain, and articles of decoration and apparel.

6—Friday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with renewed vigor in all matters except such as concern houses and lands; the evening is mischievous, so have care not to become involved in any kind of controversy nor be hasty in anything said or done; see that nothing like inflammation results from thine acts of the evening, congestion or hæmorrhoidal troubles will be easily aggravated then; be not careless with fire nor in handling animals.

7—Saturday. This day begins auspiciously; choose the forenoon for having thy money dealings and adjusting accounts; buy merchandise for trade and inaugurate enterprises concerned with literary work, books, publications, illustrations, and all artistic pursuits.

8—Sunday. Not a favorable Sabbath day but one likely to be marked by depressing experiences and more recommended for rest and quiet than for any active operation of mind or body.

9—Monday. The first two-thirds of this day should be vigorously used for pushing all thy ventures, particularly such as are to be conducted by the aid or through the intervention of persons in public office or those in authority; the evening is evil and promises disappointment or disagreeable hindrances in matters then begun; do not use the time in any important matter if it can be avoided.

10—Tuesday. The very early morning is the best part of this day, especially for all contracts of a commercial nature or that appertain to the elegant pursuits, literary ventures, and the pleasures and gratifications of mankind; as the noon is passed, however, more than usual caution ought to be used in any money transaction, nor should purchases be made for trade during any part of the succeeding twenty-four hours; some bad financial misfortune is likely here. See that all chances for fire or explosion are guarded against for we are now in the midst of days promotive of combustion and conducive to bad losses therefrom.

11—Wednesday. Be in no haste to begin the labors of this day, especially if it be the commencement of a new venture; but give the preference to the afternoon, when urge thy business with manufacturers, machinists, chemists, and all persons concerned with machinery, drugs, chemicals, metals, cattle, etc.

12—Thursday. Avoid litigation, especially over trademarks, patents, and literary productions; use the pen very cautiously; engage in no important transactions with printers, booksellers, stationers, mathematicians, lawyers or public writers; nor can much advantage be expected from dealings in such goods as pertain to the ornamental or decorative in life; art labors or enterprises inaugurated during this day are not likely to yield benefit or profit commensurate with effort or expense and are likely to meet baffling and annoying experiences; keep out of disputes in the evening.

13—Friday. Use the forenoon fully for all general business but as the afternoon advances conditions render unsafe the major money transactions and caution all against too hasty judgment or speech, when also care should be had that the temper or excitement does not make loss of means or cause injury to the best interests; look out for fires and explosions.

14—Saturday.—Affairs commenced at this time have the best promises of success, unless the nativity of the person is now very evilly disturbed. REGULUS recommends that the day be fully improved for all the honorable undertakings in life; that special efforts be given to all enterprises pertaining to the scientific pursuits and such as are concerned with the elegant occupations or polite arts; the day is peculiarly fortunate for courtship and marriage, also for the purchase or sale of wearing apparel and fancy and ornamental goods; authors will find the forenoon of this day excellent for commencing new and important work; make applications to officers of large corporations or government officials for favor or advancement.

15—Sunday. Avoid the aged and eccentric in the forenoon; the afternoon is peculiarly favorable for the religious exercises appropriate for the day.

16—Monday. More likely to be a "blue Monday" than otherwise; avoid thy landlord in the morning nor have any dealings with contractors, miners, farmers, and persons engaged in the laborious and dirty avocations; do not make any beginnings nor look for much permanent progress or advantage from thine efforts during the forenoon; be watchful of the purse in the afternoon.

17—Tuesday. Make applications to public officers or persons in authority for favor or promotion; railway officials and government employees are more agreeably disposed and more readily confer favor.

18—Wednesday. The forenoon encourages dealings with the laboring classes and promotes advantage from transactions with plumbers, tinners, and building contractors also from dealings in artistic wares and furnishings or apparel; do not apply for favor from government officials, politicians, superintendents of public works nor any of the eccentric persons in life during the middle hours of the day; urge correspondence in the evening hours when the literary labors generally may be more easily conducted than usual.

19—Thursday. The musical and artistic pursuits and the literary and elegant occupations generally suffer annoyances and embarrassments on this day; the day is peculiarly evil in most respects and prompts the postponement of very important beginnings; enter into no contract of any kind but especially is the time to be avoided for wooing or wedding; engage no servants nor expect much progress from any of the literary undertakings.

20—Friday. An evil day; discouraging for the purse and embarrassing to the progress of enterprise; conditions are threatening and money transactions have but little, if any chance of success; inducements may be held out for speculation, but REGULUS advises his friends to beware of temptation; litigation and heavy loss, if not bankruptcy are likely to fall to the lot of a great majority of those who embark their capital on this day; avoid dealings with mechanics, chemists, dentists, surgeons and manufacturers.

21—Saturday. Do not travel or change residence on this day; public officials and railroad employees will be short of patience; have no transactions pertaining to patents, trademarks, or any of the novelties of life; very aged and infirm persons are best avoided.

22—Sunday. Not promising for Sabbath day; the brain and nervous energies are just now suffering considerable detriment and nervous diseases will be greatly quickened for a time; seek rest and quiet on this day which is unusually depressing.

23—Monday. A vein of evil is mixed with what would otherwise be very benevolent conditions on this day and somewhat embarrasses or frustrates the undertakings of the time; make no bargains for houses or lands; defer consultations with architects and builders, and dealings of importance with stone cutters, masons and persons in the dirty avocations.

24—Tuesday. For authors, musicians and artists this is an especially fortunate day; let all engaged in the polite arts improve every moment urging and realizing from their several pursuits; purchase merchandise for trade and have important money transactions. The day is full of courage and enterprise inducing increased business activity and a healthy venturesomeness and REGULUS specially urges his friends to improve every moment; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler and all in the literary pursuits or having employment concerning books or upon the press are particularly favored; let the day be taken for inaugurating the principal ventures of the passing time.

25—Wednesday. This day should be fully improved in the pursuit of all general business but especially for dealings with druggists, chemists and mechanics. It is very favorable for all in the mechanical pursuits or who employ fire or sharp instruments in their callings.

26—Thursday. This is one of the excellent days of the month especially for inaugurating important matters connected with art, music, fancy goods, articles of adornment and the beautiful and elegant in life; seek audience with the ladies and have the social gathering and musical or dramatic entertainment; deal with eccentric characters; consult ancient authorities and have dealings concerning rare and antique articles.

27—Friday. Be cautious in the use of the pen during this day; make no contracts, engage no help, nor expect favor from lawyers, judges, or persons generally in the literary pursuits; the judgment will prove faulty and mental productions are best laid aside for future consideration and revision; do not sign any money agreement and hold on to the purse-strings.

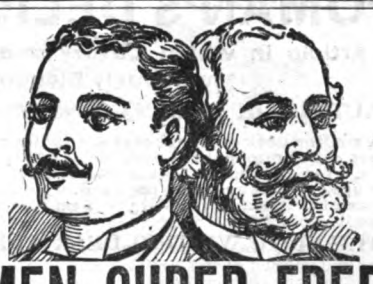
28—Saturday. Begin this day early and actively pursue thy several avocations, giving preference, if any, to the literary and artistic pursuits; seek favor from thine employer in the afternoon and evening.

29—Sunday. A favorable Sabbath day, encouraging lofty sentiment and elevating religious discourse, and clergymen have happy influences to assist them in their labors and in advancing church interests.

30—Monday. The morning hours are baffling and important matters are best deferred until a more favorable time; the middle hours of the day encourage the literary pursuits; in the evening hours seek the society and advantages from manufacturers, mechanics, chemists, military men, surgeons, and traders in metals and cattle.

31—Tuesday. A very favorable day generally for the pursuit of business and especially for dealings with public officials and persons of prominence in large corporations; also for antiquarian researches and the study of uncommon or occult subjects.

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1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
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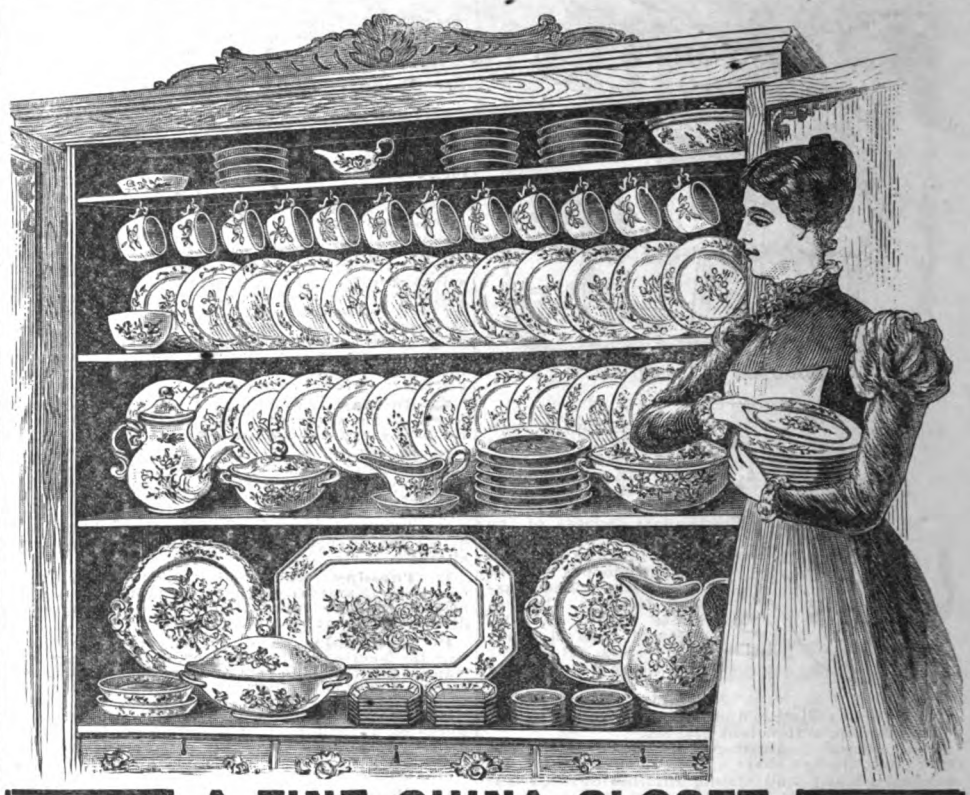


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IS A WOMAN'S PRIDE.

We Give Magnificent Tea Sets as Presents. Act Quick before Tariff Charges Shut us Off.

We have but two thousand of these beautiful **TEA SETS** left—and the late great change in Tariff laws will mean a big raise in the price of chinaware. Illustrations can give you but a faint idea of the beautiful and artistic decorated Tea sets we are now **GIVING AWAY** for a few hours' time. These Tea Sets are such as have sold at the stores for $9.25 or $13.00. We will for the next 27 days sell you one outright for only $3.50, including a year's subscription. You never saw such a Rare Bargain in your life and **you can have one yourself as a present** if you want it. All that you will have to do is to get up a club of 15 subscribers to this paper at 25c. each. **No such offer was ever made before.** We will give you the set **absolutely free as a premium** if you will do this and send us the addresses and money ($3.75) in all. Our former club offer was for 36 subscribers, $9.00 or $6.00 in cash, which was an unheard of low price at that time. This **Panic Cut Price $3.50** cannot last but a short time so **avail** yourself of the bargain. Next season it will surely go to $5.00 cash or over. This useful and ornamental set, which would adorn and beautify any abode of luxury, we shall **give away** for a short time to readers of this paper. Let us tell you what it is. It is a 56-piece tea set consisting of teapot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, 12 cups, 12 saucers, 12 tea plates, 2 cake plates, 12 preserve dishes and one slop bowl. It is of the finest English ware, and every piece perfect in design and shape. Never was a more handsome set put together, and it will be a marvel of beauty for years. It is the perfection of daintiness and every woman loves it the moment she sees it.

$3.50 If you are a reader of this paper we can sell you one of these magnificent tea sets **at the importer's cost only** so long as they last. We want to extend this paper to every home, so get up a club; but, just once, if you cannot for any reason get up the club, we will sell you one at this **Ruination Price of $3.50.** You can keep this as a souvenir of this paper and when you show it to your friends tell how you got it. Each set is carefully packed to go by express or freight, charges to be paid by the receiver.

ALSO A DINNER SET.

Perhaps you may want a full 112 piece Dinner Set instead of the Tea Set, if so we have a gem in that line as fully illustrated above. We will send one of these sets by freight safely packed in a barrel for a club of only 36 yearly subscribers to this paper at 25c. each, or will send it for $7.75 cash including a year's subscription. These Dinner Sets were bought in connection with the Tea Sets, generally sold for $15 to $19 each. Only by taking a **whole cargo at once** could we get so low a figure on them.

Our English Dinner Set consists of 112 pieces of the finest ware. It is elegant in design, and of the latest and most popular fashion, decorated after originals by the best porcelain workers in England. It has all the delicacy and beauty of Limoges Ware and cannot be told from the very finest of china. For any one that desires a perfect service that will last a lifetime and always be pleasing to the eye and in fashion, this set is exactly what will be desired. Every lady who sees it is crazy to possess one for her own use. We guarantee perfect satisfaction. Our Decorated English Dinner Set contains 112 pieces, assorted as follows: 12 Dinner Plates, 12 Tea Plates, 12 Breakfast Plates, 12 Soup Plates, 12 Fruit Saucers, 12 Individual Butter Plates, 1 10-inch Platter, 1 14-inch Platter, 1 Baker, 2 Covered Dishes, 12 Handled Tea Cups, 12 Saucers, 1 Covered Butter and Drainer, 1 Sauce Boat, 1 Pickle Dish, 1 Sugar Bowl, 1 Cream Pitcher, 1 Bowl. Our price for this elegant set is only $7.75. It must be sent by freight or express, the receiver to pay freight charges.

SPECIAL OFFER. You may want to earn both a Tea Set and the Dinner Set. If so send at once for subscription blanks and we will send both Sets consisting of 168 pieces for a club of only forty yearly subscribers at 25c. each. You can earn one of the sets any way, if not remember we sell the Tea Set of 56 pieces for only $3.50, and the Dinner Set of 112 pieces for only $7.75. Act to-day and get a set before they are all gone. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CUTS STEEL AS A DIAMOND CUTS GLASS.



Every Housekeeper Needs One. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" sharpens all Table Cutlery, Scythes, Mowing Machines, Corn Cutters, Grain Cradles, Brush Hooks, Knives, etc. Shoemakers and Butchers use them. 200,000 now in use. They are practical and durable, do perfect work. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" cuts steel as a Diamond cuts glass, and sells fast with agents at great profits; sample sent free if you enclose 18c. for a six months' subscription to COMFORT. Will send one dozen by express for $1.25, easily retails for 25c. each, more than one hundred per cent. profit. **Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!

The Comical Mirror.



A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.



GRAND OFFER TO YOU. Send us **12** cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; for **27** cents we will send you the paper 3 months and **three** mirrors all paid; or, for only **76** cents we will send the paper a whole year and one dozen mirrors by express Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

WOMAN'S DELIGHT AND MAN'S PRIDE.

An Article in which Luxury and Utility are Harmoniously Blended.

BEAUTIFUL IN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND USE.

A writing desk and bookcase are indispensable in every home. We are enabled to make it possible for every reader of this paper to obtain a fashionable and luxurious article of furniture which will be of use every hour in the day, and, which by its rich elegance and tasteful appearance, will prove an ornament in every home where it is placed.

THE ELITE WRITING DESK AND BOOKCASE

is richly designed in the artistic and graceful Modern-Antique Style that is the correct style in the homes of wealthy and fashionable people in society. It is built of **clear, solid oak,** in a **thorough and substantial manner,** and will last a century with ordinary care, growing handsomer as the wood constantly improves with age. It is **5 feet in height, and 2 feet 6 inches in width. Four large, deep shelves** for books or vases and *bric-a-brac*; and a splendid desk with **folding top, full compliment of pigeon-holes and receptacles** for paper, envelopes, letters, bills, securities, etc. In fact, a perfect and complete secretary for the library, the office, the parlor, or anywhere where an ornamental desk is needed. The most desirable premium ever offered to the people at a popular cost, and everyone **guaranteed satisfactory.**



Our Grand Offer. We will send this **splendid** bookcase and desk, exactly as described, to any person who will send $4.27 for this paper for a trial year's subscription. Freight charges only to be paid by the receiver on arrival. This is the grandest offer ever made by a reliable publisher on any article of select and fashionable furniture.

Splendid Club Offer. If you will get up a club of only 18 yearly subscribers at the special trial subscription price of 25 cents each, we will send one of these cases and desks to you **Free.** Address, **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

A $5.00 SHAVING SET FOR ONLY $1.49.

TEN MILLION MEN WILL SAVE $250,000,000.



The average man saves about **twenty-five dollars a year** by shaving himself and by having a good outfit, you can take comfort enough and save dollars enough to carry you over many rough places in life. We have tried to get up a practical shaving outfit for many years, but the expense of fitting out a suitable case of bang-up **A No. one** tools has been so great that not until a visit to Norway and Sweden revealed the fact that **Swedish Razors** were now the best in the world and the makers were anxious to prove it to the American people could we do so. Thus we **bargained** for a large lot of the best quality at very low figures. By getting the goods from different countries and buying in large lots, we have made up a case of great value at very small cost. These outfits come packed in cases eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of **1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized Handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic**—making a grand $5.00 combination, all packed in a compact case ready for shipment. We estimated that nearly every man in the country out of necessity shaves himself at some time or other during each month and one long wait in a barber shop sometimes costs more than this whole outfit is valued at. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use at all events and we have thus got it together at a low cost so as to be able to offer **the best** articles at the lowest cost. **Every woman** should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman, and **you can get one free as follows:** Send a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper, at 25c each and we will send an outfit all charges paid, or send $1.49 in cash and we deliver it free—extending your subscription one year.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE LOVER'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA.

Fun, Amusement, and Instruction for All.



No young lady or young man can be quite "up-to-date" without the knowledge which this book contains.

It tells the art and etiquette of conversation—how, when and where to talk.

It gives full instructions regarding dress and personal appearance, and the secret of ease and grace in deportment and conversation under embarrassing circumstances.

It tells how to cure bashfulness. Worth $5 to any bashful young man. It gives full instructions in the art of winning the opposite sex. It tells how to choose a partner for life. The laws of marriage. How to make courting a success. How to propose. Marriage and its results. It gives dozens of funny love letters, and scores of odd and ingenious proposals never before published. Everyone may get new ideas to fit any case.

It contains fifteen hundred gems of prose and poetry, choice selections suitable for inscriptions with birthday, holiday and wedding gifts, Christmas, New Year's and Easter cards, autograph albums, valentines, etc., etc.

It is literally packed from cover to cover with **just the things you want to know.** It is a regular 50 cent book, but we will mail them to any address, carefully wrapped, for just half price, one copy for **25 Cents.**

Which includes a three months' subscription to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

French and Swiss Music Boxes Outplayed by the New

AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN.

THIS ROLLER ORGAN PLAYS ANY TUNE arranged for it, from a Waltz to a Hymn, with perfect tune and time. Gives better satisfaction than a HUNDRED-DOLLAR PARLOR ORGAN and ten times more pleasure. Plays more than 1,000 tunes in a superb manner and charms every listener. The grandest and most marvelous musical instrument ever presented to the public. THE NEW AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN is operated upon a similar plan to the FINEST FRENCH MUSIC-BOXES. The instrument is thoroughly made. No better work is found in the most expensive musical machinery. A child can operate it. WILL NEVER WEAR OUT. This instrument is the Perfection of musical ingenuity and PLAYS SACRED MUSIC, MARCHES, WALTZES, POLKAS, JIGS, REELS, Selections from Operas, Popular Songs, Church Music, as well as any organ, and is arranged for DANCE MUSIC perfectly. YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INSTRUMENTS. Nothing grander or combining so many features can be found in French or Swiss Music-boxes, costing $100. WE WANT A SPECIAL AGENT, EITHER SEX, IN EVERY LOCALITY, TO SELL OUR REMEDIES, AND OFFER SUCH INDUCEMENTS THAT EARNEST WORKERS CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE $100 to $300 PER MONTH. When you order a sample instrument ask for Special Terms.



These instruments will be offered for FIVE DOLLARS, IN BEAUTIFULLY CARVED CASES, with music. Send for one. It will fill you with astonishment and delight. If you want it sent C. O. D. send **$1.50** when you order and pay balance **$3.50** when you get organ. Send P. O. Order, Registered Letter or Express Money-order.

We will include a year's subscription to this paper to every one who sends the money in full for an organ. Perhaps you would like to get one and pay us for it in a few hours' work. If such is the case you may raise a club of 32 subscribers to this paper at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, or a club of 17 at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, and we will send you the Roller Organ to pay you for your trouble.

Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CUT GLASS, SILVER TOP CREAM PITCHER FREE.

This refined Cut Glass finish Cream Pitcher is like crystal diamonds in its sparkling beauty; and is just a neat handy size for table creamer. Its pattern is the latest thing in style, and having a **Quadruple Silver Plated Rim** to top it out makes it as dainty as it is chaste and beautiful. Heretofore anything in **cut glass** has been so very expensive that the price has prevented its general use. By the invention of special new machinery the high cost has been largely overcome and we can now present a premium of genuine worth to be given free for a few minutes work. This cream pitcher with its dainty silver topped rim is pretty enough to grace any table and it will give a fine effect and make a good setting to the rest of one's table fittings. It should sell for 67c, but we will send one free, all charges paid, for a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c each or send 33c for a year's subscription and we will send the creamer to you free.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



—THE— EAGLE CLAW,

A WONDERFUL INVENTION. BEST TRAP IN THE WORLD for CATCHING FISH, ANIMALS, AND ALL MANNER OF GAME.



A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is **surely caught.** Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. **One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish.** Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. 1 is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. 2 is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

PREMIUM OFFER. We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or, send us 50 cents and we will send the No. 2, Eagle Claw-hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, $2.25; No. 2, $3.50.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us $1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us $1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

PEARL AND GILT

Initial Stick Pins.



New ideas in stick pins make them more popular than ever, we have just secured **a novelty** in these pearl and gold plated initial stick pins. It is a glad hand that holds the pure white pearl heart with the gilt initial securely fastened to it. The effect of the combination is very beautiful and we know after you once get one that many others who see them will order at once. These are really a 25c. article, but to introduce we will send samples, any initial desired, free to all who send us 10c. for a trial six months' subscription to this paper, the monthly that is needed in every home. If you want three stick pins all one initial or different send us 25c. for a year's subscription and get three of these popular stick pins, they are for Gents' or Ladies' use. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

JUST LIKE RAIN.



Every person who cultivates plants should have one of these Bent Neck Sprinklers for sprinkling plants or flowers in house or garden. Also useful to sprinkle clothes for ironing, spraying clothing or carpets to prevent moths, and to disinfect sick-rooms, etc. Much better than dipper or watering pot for every purpose. For plants, destroys red spiders, knits, caterpillars, etc. Sprinkles plants and flowers very quickly without injuring or soaking the earth and soiling everything else near. Constructed so simply of a rubber bulb and hard rubber spray that it cannot get out of order, and will last almost a lifetime. Acts exactly like nature and is the only true substitute for rain in plant life.

AN OFFER TO YOU. To induce you to take a six months' trial of our great Home Story Paper, we will send you one of these large size Sprinklers and the paper on trial six months, all charges prepaid, for only 63 cents. Don't neglect this.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



No. 484, HOT-WATER BOTTLE.

Every family ought to own one of these hot-water bottles. Fill the bag with hot water, and place it against the body where there is pain. It will give immediate and great relief, and sometimes saves life. It would be well if people generally understood this fact. It improves the circulation of the blood and gives vigor and elasticity to the body. The best thing in the world for warming beds in cold nights; for invalids, or people with cold feet or poor circulation.

These bags are made of superior quality rubber, the best made, and every bag is warranted perfect, and will hold two quarts of water. These water bottles are sold everywhere at from $1.25 to $1.75 each.

We will send this paper six months on trial and a hot-water bottle free for $1.65; or, for $9.50 we will send the paper one year on trial and one dozen bottles as described, by express.

A Grand Offer. If you will get up a club of six subscribers to this paper at 25 cents we will send you a Hot-Water Bottle FREE.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

UNIFORM YOUR CLUB.



BOYS' LEAGUE BASE BALL OUTFIT.



PRICE, $2.00.

EACH OUTFIT CONTAINS

9 BASE BALL CAPS.
9 BASE BALL BELTS.
1 BASE BALL.
1 BASE BALL BAT.
1 THROWING GLOVE.
1 CATCHER'S MITT.
1 CATCHER'S WIRE MASK.
1 BOOK COMPLETE BASE BALL RULES.





Boys, here is a chance to get a Complete Outfit at a Bargain. Send us your order **quick.** Price, Complete Outfit, packed in strong case, only **$2.00.**

Every boy wants his club in uniform. Here is the chance. Jim dandy goods and latest league pattern. Complete outfit for young prize winners. Take a pride in your club and work for it.

A BIG CHANCE FOR YOUR CLUB. Get up a club of nine yearly subscribers at our special trial rate of 25 cents and we will send one outfit **free.** Each boy get one subscriber and you get the outfit. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE LADY'S SYRINGE.



This Syringe we recommend as the simplest and most perfect Vaginal Syringe in the market. It is made of soft rubber, and consists of the nozzle, vaginal shield and a bulb. The vaginal shield is the essential feature of the instrument. It is constructed in such a manner that when the nozzle is pressed against the vaginal inlet it closes the latter so perfectly that when the bulb is pressed upon, the injection enters the vagina and expands all its folds which harbor the discharges to be removed. As long as the bulb is pressed upon the injection is held in contact with the entire mucous membrane, and is removed the moment the bulb is allowed to expand By repeating the injection and withdrawing several times the vagina can be more perfectly cleansed than can be done by any other instrument. This is a bonanza for wide-awake lady agents who can sell them in every house, as they give perfect satisfaction to every lady using them. They are so simple that their merits and perfect work are easily explained satisfactory by one lady to another, and every lady buys one at once.

With a year's trial subscription to this paper we will send this syringe by mail for $1.74; or, a year's subscription and one dozen, by express, for $18.84.

CLUB OFFER. If you will get up a club of ten subscribers to this paper at 25 cents, we will send you a Syringe FREE for your trouble.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

NOTICE TO AGENTS.

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE

WILLING TO WORK.

$3.00 a Day Sure.

DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from $3 to $5 a day at this business. We admit that $3 to $5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from $20 to $50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from $20 to $50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that $3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging $4 and $5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from $7 to $10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, $3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than $3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make $3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear $3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from $5 to $7, and even $10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a Company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from $3 to $5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from $3 to $5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Any one who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from $3 to $5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, $2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, $1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, $1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to $2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only $1.00, which is $1.83 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-half of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in everyway, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even **one dollar** and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the **one dollar** cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent **one dollar** and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.:

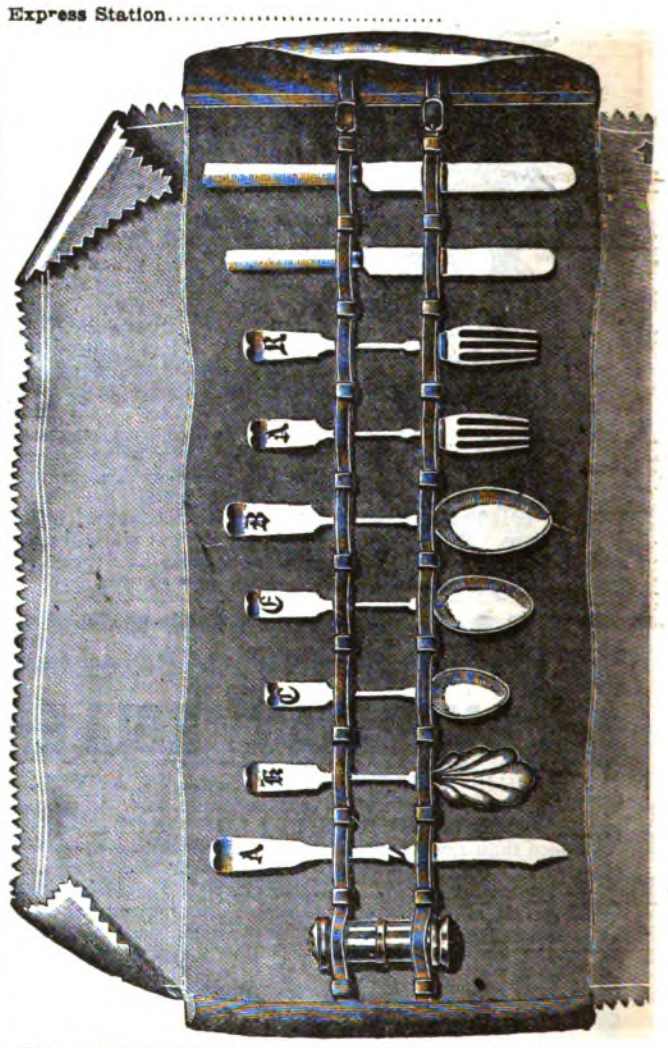
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the **one dollar** required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the **one dollar** If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, **send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.**

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County..... .....State.....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the *Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage.* Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,

Box 1000, DETROIT, MICH.

OCTOBER 1899

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOLXI NO 12 MN 132

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

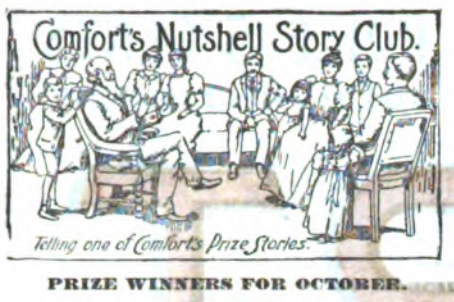
NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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OCTOBER 1899



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



PRIZE WINNERS FOR OCTOBER.

R. B. Hill, First Prize.
Millicent Olmstead, Second Prize.
Aubertine W. Moore, Third Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Fourth Prize.
Ward Gould, Fifth Prize.

COURAGE AND COURAGE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY R. B. HILL.

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AFTER the last fight before Santiago a group of Rough Riders were discussing the bravery displayed by our troops as compared with that of the Spaniards, and finally courage in general became the theme of conversation.

"I believe there is courage and courage," said a cowboy from the western plains. "I believe some men are brave under certain circumstances, and what is commonly called 'cowardly' under others, in fact——"

"I don't agree with you," said another. "In my opinion if one is really brave the emergency is all that is necessary to cause its exhibition. This was expressed by the little lad, who, when asked on a certain occasion how he could act so bravely, replied, "It wasn't me; it just braved itself." And so, too, if one is cowardly, it is just as sure to display itself."

"Well, in a general way I rather agree with you," said the first speaker; "still I know of one instance to prove the truth of what I have said, and I suppose there are others."

"That so?" said the other. "Let us have it, then. I'm always willing to descend from the abstract to the concrete. Tell us about this strange anomaly—who and what he was."

"His name was Bruce Anthony. He put in his appearance on the plains about four years ago, and his initiation was like this: A crowd of us, headed as usual by Big Jim Todd, dashed into Saloonville, as we called the place, whooping and yelling and shooting off our guns. We had three months' pay in our pockets, and meant to have a good time. When we went into O'Shea's bar one of the first things we saw was this young tender-foot, sitting quietly in a corner. Todd pounced on him like a coyote on a lamb, and ordered him to set up drinks for the crowd. He did so, but declined to take one himself. If anything this was worse than if he had refused to 'set 'em up,' and the way Todd villified and abused him was pitiful; at least, the way he took it was pitiful. He was as pale as death, his lips trembled and he could hardly stand. At last Todd wound up by knocking him down with his fist. When he got up he was like a different man, and looking Todd straight in the eyes he said as calmly as I'm talking now, 'I hope you are through.' 'I may be and may not. Why?' replied Todd taking a step backward, and dropping his hand on the butt of his six-shooter. 'Because this is very unpleasant—to me. I came west in search of friends, employment and health, and I must say I have received sorry encouragement thus far as regards the first, and the blow I've just received is not conducive to the last; hope, however, to succeed better in the third. Can any of you tell me where I can find Mr. Frank Gordon's ranch?'

"'What do you want to know that for?' asked Todd.

"'I have a letter to him from one of his schoolboy friends asking him to give me something to do.'

"'We belong on Gordon's ranch,' answered Todd, 'and we don't want no such cattle as you around. We've got no use for scrub stock. And if you're looking for good health you'd better go somewhere else; your health at Gordon's would be mighty bad while it lasted, and we don't need you, anyway.'

"'I must try it, though,' said the young fellow; 'perhaps I'm not so green as you think. Of course I can't ride and shoot like you fellows, but I have some foundation to build on in both cases.'

"And this proved to be true, for Mr. Gordon seemed glad to see him and give him employment. He proved himself to be a good shot and rider, as they do those things in the east, and in a few months he was one of the best all-round cowpunchers on the ranch, and no man in that whole section—not even Todd— was quicker or handier with his six-shooter. We put him through a tough experience, but he never shirked a duty or a danger, and at the end of a few months we had all learned to like him mightily—all except Jim Todd. He was assistant foreman, and never missed a chance of brow-beating and bullying Anthony. Time and again I've seen him stand pale and with downcast eyes while Todd abused him; then next thing he'd be taking his life in his hand and doing something reckless. Several times we saw him do such things as we had never seen Todd do. And he never did or said anything that would make a woman blush.

"I said we all learned to like Bruce except Todd, but there was another notable exception, Miss Lucy Gordon, or 'Lucy' as I called her, for I knew her from a baby almost and have held her before me on my horse many a time. From the first she ignored Bruce's existence, and I knew Todd had told her what had happened in the saloon. She didn't know what fear was herself, and such a thing as cowardice in a man she could not tolerate for a moment. Todd was madly in love with her, and though I knew there was no chance for him, he and some others seemed to think there was.

"So things went along for about two years, when I noticed that Bruce who was of a happy bright disposition, began to droop and lose spirit. We two had become very chummy, and I got after him about it, and when he told me what the trouble was I felt like a fool for not having guessed it long before.

"'Idiot! Fool, that I am! I am in love with Miss Gordon,' he exclaimed; 'I, whom she calls that poor coward! Whom she has seen humiliated time after time by that—that red-headed, black-hearted brute Todd. As long as I could be near her, see her occasionally I could stand the fact of her ignoring me; but now that passive contempt is turned into active scorn, I cannot bear it; I am going away. And oh, Sid, when I am gone, don't let her marry that fellow. I'm not worthy of her, I know, but neither is he. I try to be, and he does not. You have known her so long, you have influence with her; keep her from it!'

"I told him I couldn't answer for a woman's whims, but that I didn't think there was any danger of her marrying Todd. Then I asked him the direct question, why it was he cringed before such a man. 'Ah! Sid,' he replied, 'I know that you, like she and the rest, consider me a coward, and perhaps it is natural; but I like to think, God grant that I am right in thinking, that with me it is a natural infirmity as cross-eyes or hair-lip would be. Each of my grandfathers killed a man, my father narrowly escaped doing the same thing. I believe I was born with a morbid horror of taking human life. It is not the feeling of being hurt, you have seen enough of me to know that, but a single dread of being overcome and of taking the life of a fellow-man. And yet, although you will doubtless find it hard to believe, the fact that I came near killing a man was the immediate cause of my coming west. For years, indeed from the days of our boyhood, he had treated me much as this Todd has since my coming here, and I never resented it. At last one day he attacked a much smaller, weaker man, and seemed on the point of killing him, when I sprang to the rescue, and ere I knew it had seriously injured him. And I feel that this spirit is latent within me. I have longed for this fellow to give me an opportunity of the same kind that I might redeem myself in her eyes, but it has not come and I can wait no longer. I have notified Mr. Gordon of my intention to leave at the end of the month.'

"I tried to dissuade him, but could see that his mind was fully made up. Before going west I had studied law, and during that period and afterwards I had studied human nature pretty closely. While Bruce was talking the question suggested itself as to the why and wherefore of Lucy's change of attitude toward him. If her contempt had passed from the passive to the active state, what had caused it? Was it not because she felt that she was becoming interested in him, and her woman's pride rebelled at the change? This was the conclusion I reached, and the next day I put my conclusion to the test. Making the opportunity to be near her, I said:

"'Bruce Anthony tells me he is going to leave us the last of the month.'"

"She started and the color left her face as she asked falteringly, 'W-h-y?'"

"'You are driving him away, and if you will take the advice of an old friend you won't let him go.'

The color flushed her face now and her eyes flashed, as she exclaimed:

"'What possible difference does his going or remaining, make to me, do you suppose? What interest can I have in a pitiful coward like that?'

"But even as she spoke the word her lips trembled and tears filled her eyes. 'Oh! if he were only brave! Only brave!' she moaned, wringing her hands.

"'Brave' I retorted, 'Take him altogether he is the bravest man I know—too brave to think or say aught disparaging of women; too brave to take advantage of another man's infirmity or disease to make him suffer.'

"Then I told her what Bruce had told me, and when I left her I hoped for the best. Of one thing I was sure—she loved him, but which would win, love or pride, I could not say.

"I did not tell Bruce what had occurred, but urged him not to leave without saying good-by to Lucy, which he had spoken of doing. The day arrived and I saw him ride toward the house to tell them good-by. Little Tot, as we called her, Mr. Gordon's baby girl of four years, saw him coming and running to meet him begged to be taken up for a ride. I saw him bend down and lift her in his arms, and then ride on to the piazza where Lucy was sitting. He dismounted and the child led the horse away to munch the grass. Removing his hat he went up the steps to her side and extended his hand. Before she could take it, had she intended, a horseman galloped up and throwing himself from his horse, strode up the steps. I saw Todd, for it was he, cast a quick glance toward Bruce, before which he stepped back with averted face. Then the other two seemed to ignore his presence altogether, and my heart burned hot within me as I saw him standing there and felt that his last chance was gone, and that perhaps the villain had won.

"So absorbed were we all that we failed to notice a great cloud of dust, which came from beyond, until it was almost opposite the ranch. Then we all saw it at once and realized what it was—the stampede of a great herd of cattle, next to a prairie fire one of the grandest, most terrible sights on the Western prairie. They would pass almost within a stone's throw of the ranch, and merciful Heavens! Tot was right in their path.

"'Save her! Save her!' cried Lucy, springing up and pointing with quivering finger.

"'Too late now,' answered Todd. 'No earthly power could——'

"'Cowards! Will you stand here and see her killed before your eyes? Then I will save her!' and she started forward.

"But Bruce was before her. 'Stay where you are!' he thundered, already half-way to his horse. With a bound he was upon the animal's back and dashing toward the apparently doomed little one. She appeared to realize her danger and ran toward him with outstretched arms. He reached her, leaned down and caught her to his heart, and turned his horse's head—but too late; they were swallowed up in that cloud of dust, cut to pieces beneath those sharp hoofs! No, no! They had disappeared only for a moment. The gallant horseman dashed from the dust-cloud bearing his precious burden safe in his arms.

"'Saved, thank God! O, baby, baby!' cried Lucy, pressing her to her heart and covering her face with kisses.

"'Won't you say good-by now?' asked Bruce again holding out his hand. The girl caught it in both her own, and whispered:

"'Can you forgive me? And—and you won't go away, will you?'

"Softly as she had spoken, Todd saw, heard and understood. 'Curse you, I'll kill you both!' he hissed, his hand going to his pistol. But quick as was hate, love was even quicker, and Bruce's weapon spoke the fractional part of a second the sooner, and Todd for once missed his aim and lurched forward with a pistol bullet through his body. It was all beautifully done and when I got through hugging Bruce he was rather limp."

"I suppose," said one of the listeners, "your hero and heroine were married soon and lived happily together ever after?"

"They were married not very long afterwards and *will*, no doubt, live together happily to the end of time."

"And what became of Todd?" asked another.

"O, he left for parts unknown as soon as he was able to travel," answered Gordon. "He was a good deal of a hog, it is true, but he knew when he had enough."

"Strikes me that your friend Anthony is rather curiously mixed in his composition, but as you say he is such a stickler for duty and for taking the part of the oppressed, why didn't he come with you fellows? If any people have ever been oppressed it is these Cubans."

"Well, he was very anxious to come, but you see his wife was not in—that is, she wasn't willing for him to leave her just now. I'm looking for an important letter from him now by every mail and if Jepson don't bring me one this evening I'll be disappointed. Here he is now. A letter for me, you say? Many thanks, old boy! This is the one, postmarked about a month ago, and says—in large letters, 'A BOY! His mother and himself doing well. He sends you a kiss.' Well, that's mighty good news, and if I live to return I'll carry him a souvenir."

St. Vitus Dance. One bottle Dr. M.M.Fenner's Specific cures. By mail. Send for Circular, Fredonia, N.Y.

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LEARN TELEGRAPHY

Young men and women wanted for good positions. Address Fisk Telegraph School, Lebanon, Pa.

THE FRESCO OF SAN JOSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MILLICENT OLMSTEAD.

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PERHAPS some of you know that in the near vicinity of San Antonio, where Miss Lathrop and I spent our winter, there is a chain of remarkable old structures called the Missions.

They were settlements of buildings enclosed with a wall chief of which were a chapel and the cloisters, and cells of the reverend fathers who built these oases in the wilderness for the conversion and protection of the tribes of aborigines that roamed the southern wastes.

They were more incredible than one can describe, when one remembers that they were reared in solitudes, the nearest civilization being Mexico or the lower part of California. Yet these edifices were finished in a perfect and magnificent way, the fathers themselves being the civil engineers, architects, stonemasons, carpenters, sculptors and artists during their erection, the farmers, apothecaries, priests and protectors, when once the Mission was complete.

There are five of these Missions, situated from two to four miles apart, extending from the old church of the Alamo in the heart of the city, to the farthest Mission some ten miles away. They were all originally connected by ditches or aqueducts containing clear running water, from which each Mission, as well as the irrigating ditches of its farms, was supplied.

The Alamo itself is not numbered in the chain of Missions, of which the original plan, was, I think, to form links to reach even to Mexico City.

It is with the second Mission outside of the city, about four miles away, with which I have to deal in my tale. This is by far the most luxurious of the five, but it is in a terrible state of ruin. Its vicissitudes have been many, not the least of which was the quartering of United States troops there at one time in the bloody history of the State of Texas.

Once upon a time, (I am going to say that because it is the way all right-minded fairy tales begin, and I cannot know but that you may consider this one.) But let me tell my story, first. Once upon a time, on a Sunday morning, Constance and I set out to view the Missions. We were quite alone that day, except for a willing nag that pulled our phaeton. We could not miss our way, for it was almost a straight road. We did not stop at the first Mission, inasmuch as we had been there before, and had climbed all over it. It is in a comparatively good state of repair, and has a family of market gardeners and florists living in its cloisters, with a duck and chicken yard in an angle of the church, which in a large degree takes from the romantic interest of the place. We drove directly to San Jose.

Now San Jose has lost a large part of its roof. In front of the facade is a Mexican burying-ground, where rude crosses with bead wreaths and much gilding stand tawdrily awry. A few

A PECULIAR REMEDY

Something About the New Discovery for Curing Dyspepsia.

(*From Mich. Christian Advocate.*)

The Rev. F. I. Bell, a highly esteemed minister residing in Weedsport, Cayuga Co., N. Y., in a recent letter writes as follows: "There has never been anything that I have taken that has relieved the Dyspepsia from which I have suffered for ten years except the new remedy called Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. Since taking them I have had no distress at all after eating and again after long years can sleep well. Rev. F. I. Bell, Weedsport, N. Y., formerly Idalia, Colo."

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is a remarkable remedy, not only because it is a certain cure for all forms of indigestion, but because it seems to act as thoroughly in old chronic cases of Dyspepsia as well as in mild attacks of indigestion or biliousness. A person has dyspepsia simply because the stomach is overworked, all it wants is a harmless vegetable remedy to digest the food and thus give it the much needed rest.

This is the secret of the success of this peculiar remedy. No matter how weak or how much disordered the digestion may be Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will digest the food whether the stomach works or not. New life and energy is given not only to the stomach but to every organ and nerve in the body.

A trial of this splendid medicine will convince the most skeptical that Dyspepsia and all stomach troubles can be cured. Send for little book on Stomach mailed free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich. So popular has the remedy become that Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets can now be obtained at any drug store at 50c. per package.

GIRLS and Boys earn jewelry, sporting goods easy. Write for list. Excelsior Bluing Co., 58 LaSalle St., Chicago.

curious Mexicans poked their noses out of their doors as we hitched our horse to a broken railing. They were quite a distance from us, their houses built into the fallen remnants of the stone protection wall. That part of the old pile still roofed over proved to be locked, and so, as we could not get in there, we contented ourselves with peering in through the windows and convenient cracks and crannies. It looked sufficiently spooky for us to glance at each other and whisper:

"Shouldn't you suppose this place would be haunted by the ghosts of the past?"

Then one of us remarked cheerfully and aloud as we turned away:

"Of course it's haunted. It couldn't live up to its pretentions as a real, antiquated ruin if it wasn't."

The old cells, however, were accessible in their half-unroofed condition, and we sat down in one of them, on some blocks of stone fallen from the wall. Gothic arched doorways divided the rows of cells one from the other, and on the crumbling plaster walls, and in the wide arched doorways we found the faded remains of an elaborate fresco work in reds and blues.

As we sat there idly chatting, the soft glow of clouded sunlight drifting in upon us, I noticed a brown film come before my eyes, as I looked towards the doorway. I rubbed my eyes, and glanced away. It was gone. Then I gazed again at the doorway. There was the brown mist again, slightly defined in shape, which seemed to be that of a cowled monk.

I stopped in the middle of the remark I was making, and glanced uneasily at Constance. She was sitting stiff and staring towards the doorway. I looked again. The figure was distinct now, a monk standing in the opening between us and the only exit, the windows being still iron-barred, and the walls too high to scale.

"Constance," I whispered, "Do you see it too?"

She nodded.

"What do you see?" I persisted.

"A ghost!" she gasped.

And there we sat, the creeps running up and down our backs, and the hairs of our heads pricking up like porcupine quills. Yet it was a very plain looking ghost after all, with little appearance of evil intent. He stood profile to us, with his cowl drawn, so that we could not see his face, and appeared to be busy at the wall of the arch.

Familiarity with the apparition at length removed our terrible first fear. We shifted our positions a little, and Constance suggested that perhaps he was real after all.

"Speak to him," I proposed.

And she, whose nerve seemed pretty steady chirped out rather nervously, "Good-morning."

Not a response of any kind from him.

"Humph," we grunted, losing much more of our fright, "Conservative old spook!"

"What do you suppose he's doing?" asked Constance.

So we arose, and hand in hand stepped across towards the spectre. Two steps took us quite near enough, and we could see that he was painting on the faded design frescoed within the arch. His hand traced the curves and sweeps of the pattern with almost magical swiftness, leaving bold strokes of red where the brush passed. In his left hand held downwards like a cup, was a little thick, red paint—paint, was it—I looked intently.

"Constance," I muttered, clutching her by the shoulder, "It's blood!"

We both shuddered, and gripped each other as close as we possibly could.

"Oh, let's get out of it," we murmured quite uselessly. But there we stood, our fear awful again in its paralyzing power.

Steadily from a cut in his wrist the red blood ran drop by drop into the cup of his hand.

Suddenly the apparition spoke. "Do not fear me," it said; but our fright only doubled, and I nearly shrieked.

Constance held my hand firmly.

"And do not hinder me, for oh! I have so short a time," went on the voice. It seemed scarcely to shake the still air, so breathless, so rarified it seemed, yet reaching our hearts if not our ears with the certainty of the vibration of a violin string. And, it was a woman's voice, by all that is mysterious! Even as I thought this, she turned and the hood dropped away from her face. Of all the beautiful sights I ever beheld, that face was the loveliest, if the most unearthly. The white of it had the transparency of some pure marbles, with blue eyes shining with the depth and fire of sapphires, and bands of pale hair bound in strand after strand around her head.

"I can only come once in your year," she murmured, "and my work is far from done."

Her remarks came in snatches, as she worked on relentlessly.

"My vow was to finish the frescoing of this church. I vowed—and I must accomplish. I was alone here, in this wild and desolate place. The fathers sent me. They did not know I was a woman. I was only an artist—I wore monk's robes. I made a vow and it holds immortally. I was jealous of the church—I loved a man. Do you know how it is to love—to love—to love?" she cried louder, glancing at us over her shoulder, almost scorn in her eyes as she implied our ignorance.

A FAMILIAR VERDICT.

"KILLED HIMSELF IN A FIT OF DESPONDENCY."

A Theory of Suicide Sustained by Medical Evidence.

Is there any relation to be traced between the prevalence of "stomach trouble" and the prevalence of suicide "while in a despondent state of mind?" That is a question which only an observant person would ask, but, being asked, it suggests a very important field of inquiry.

Every dyspeptic knows what it is to feel that dull cloud of despondency settle down on the mind as a fog settles down on the sea or wraps itself about the mountain climber. The blue is wiped out of the sky, the green fades from the grass, the sun is blotted from the heavens. There is a sense of fear and dread of impending danger. Forms seen through this fog of the



mind are magnified and distorted, looming large and threatening like the scepter of the Brocken. It's a miserable feeling; miserable for the sufferer, miserable for his friends and for his family. Does that condition of depression ever come to a man or woman without causing the cry in the secret heart,

"I WOULD THAT I WERE DEAD?"

And if the condition becomes more frequent, the rifts in the fog more rare, does not the thought of self-destruction haunt the depressed mind? Like some evil peeping face which flattens itself against the window and watches us as we eat, like evil eyes that burn through the darkness of the sleepless hours and hold the gaze in terrified fascination, so this thought of self-destruction haunts the despondent mind and, like the ghost of Banquo, "will not down."

These are facts. They are common facts. Is it any wonder that some day in such a fog of mind, haunted and hounded by this one thought of escape from a life of misery, the man sends a bullet into the aching heart and stills it? He may be rich, his family may adore him, his friends may be legion. But through the fog of this depression he sees poverty stalking him. His "foes are those of his own household," he thinks, and those who call him friend are plotting his ruin.

SUICIDAL DESPONDENCY

is a common result of a diseased condition of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition from which the dyspeptic suffers. There is a relation to be traced between suicide from despondency and the despondent condition of the mind so common to the victim of "stomach trouble" in some of its forms. In the large correspondence of Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., the feature of mental suffering is always prominent in the letters of those who are seeking a cure from diseases which affect the digestive and nutritive system. This will be noted in the letter which follows:

"I was afflicted with what the doctors called nervous indigestion. Took medicine from my family physician to no avail. In looking over one of Dr. Pierce's Memorandum Books," writes Mr. Thos. G. Lever, of Lever, Richmond Co., S. C., "I found my case described exactly. I wrote to you and made a statement. You sent me a descriptive list of questions, also hygienic rules. I carried these out as best I could but I thought myself incurable, as I suffered so much from pain under my ribs and an empty feeling in my stomach. At night would have cold or hot feet and hands alternately. I was getting very nervous and suffered a great deal mentally, thinking that death would soon claim me. Always expected something unusual to take place; was irritable and impatient, and greatly reduced in flesh. I could scarcely eat anything that would not produce a bad feeling in my stomach. After some hesitation, owing to my prejudices against patent medicines, I decided to try a few bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and 'Pellets.' After taking several bottles of each, found I was improving. I continued for six months or more, off and on. I have to be careful yet, at times, of what I eat, in order that I may feel good and strong. I fully believe if any one suffering with indigestion, or torpid liver, or chronic cold, would take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and 'Pleasant Pellets' and observe a few simple hygienic rules, they would soon be greatly benefited, and with a little perseverance would be entirely cured."

IT DOES NOT SURPRISE US

to see some implement made by man do the work it was made to do. We'd be surprised if it failed. Once in a while some ambitious Darius Green invents a flying machine that will not fly. Once in a while some Keely motor refuses to "mote" to any practical purpose. But for the most part the things contrived and invented by man do just what they were made to do; the saw eats into the resinous log, the rudder steers the battleship, the fuse explodes the charge which topples down tons on tons of ore.

Why should it be any wonder then, that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition? It was made to cure just these diseases, and the wonder would be if it failed to cure. It is not a cure-all. It often cures "liver trouble," "heart trouble," "head trouble," "nerve trouble," "lung trouble," and many another ill that troubles the human body. But it cures these forms of disease remote from the stomach because they really root in the stomach. When the stomach is cured the heart, liver, lungs, brain and nerves, whichever organ may be affected by the stomach is cured through the stomach.

IT'S NO EXPERIMENT

to use Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for the cure of diseases of the stomach and other diseases originating in a diseased stomach. The cure follows almost as an arithmetical certainty. It's almost as sure that "Golden Medical Discovery" will cure as that two and two make four. We say almost as sure, because as a matter of record two people in every hundred do fail of a perfect cure. But the ninety-eight people in that hundred who use "Golden Medical Discovery" fairly and faithfully, are perfectly and permanently cured.

The record of cures made by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery covers a period of more than thirty years and the treatment and cure of more than half a million people.

Sick people are invited to consult Dr. Pierce absolutely without fee or charge. All correspondence treated as strictly private and sacredly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

A TEMPERANCE MEDICINE.

The fact is especially underscored that "Golden Medical Discovery" is absolutely and altogether a temperance medicine in the most extreme meaning of the term temperance. It is as free from opium, cocaine and all other narcotics as it is from whiskey and alcohol in every form.

There is no substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery." Let no mercenary merchant impose on you with a remedy which will pay him better but which will not cure you.

GIVEN AWAY.

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent *free* on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing *only*. This great work should be in the hands of every man and woman who values physical health and mental happiness. It is a large volume, containing 1008 pages and over 700 illustrations. It can be had bound in cloth or in paper. Send 21 one-cent stamps for paper binding, or 31 stamps for durable cloth covers, to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

"Yes, I loved him—but he gave his love to the church. Do you know how I felt?" She lifted her hands with such a gesture of woe, that the little cupful of blood spattered out upon the wall.

While waiting for the slow dripping to refill the little cup, she turned to us.

"That was my sin and I must make expiation. My confessor said, my life to the church for being jealous of it. Think! It held all that I loved, so I vowed to give my life to it, to decorate the walls of a church, for I had a knowledge of art beyond many artists. I was sent here, here where I learned he was to come in charge of the Mission."

The little cup was filling now, and she fell to work again.

"I had finished all but this cell. This was to be his. Ah, I worked till my red paint failed. Months' journeys to the nearest city in Mexico, no one to send, and he was coming in a fortnight. 'It shall be done,' I cried. I opened a vein in my arm, and used the blood for the red. It lasted until I saw my work almost complete, when my strength gave way. . . This doorway was still undone. . . The fortnight waned; my strength was at an end. If I did not finish I must come again and again from the life beyond the flesh until my vow was completed."

The figure was wavering from side to side; the brush fell from the bloodless hand. We strained forward to hear her last words.

"I was dying—when——he——came."

She fell, but not before we had sprung to her side and together caught her in our arms. We sank to our knees with our singular burden, and only then found another figure kneeling at her side, with one arm under her. It was another monkish form, that of a man, whose face drawn with anguish we could just discern beneath his hood.

Our hands touched him as we clasped the artist; a smile flickered at her lips for one exquisite moment and then, before we could recall our fright or amazement in the presence of such strange sights, they had slipped into the ether within our hands, and we girls knelt face to face clasping each other.

We rose to our feet beneath the doorway. The design in blood was already brown and dry as if years had rubbed its color from it.

Then we saw that the design was complete. She had fulfilled her vow!

As we came again under the open sky an aged, tottering Mexican woman was patting our horse's nose. She gave us a sharp look from her black eyes and held out her withered hand. We did not meet her glance nor speak to her, but dropped our coins in her palm, and drove away with our fantastic memory undisturbed.

A KING OF THE FOREST.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY AUBERTINE W. MOORE.

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LIONS of all sizes, colors and degrees have been encountered by military men in Algerian campaigns, but never beneath African or any other skies has the king of beasts appeared under aspect more fantastic than in an adventure related by Captain Grimblot, a French army officer.

The scene is located in the heart of the desert, near the oasis of Onargia during the campaign of 1869.

Captain Grimblot, with his aid Ben Dris, the Arab chief, commanded the advance guard of an important expedition. Round about them lay an immense plain, dotted here and there with hillocks sparsely overgrown with dry heather, prickly shrubs and stunted brush wood.

Since early morning the men had been marching beneath a sun that towered like a devastating conqueror above their heads. Their skin was parched. Their tongues clove to the roofs of their mouths. The air seemed on fire.

Suddenly one of the Turkish guards, or Spahis as they were called, exclaimed:

"Captain! My captain! A lion!"

"Where?" asked Captain Grimblot.

"Yonder—to the right—not 50 metres distant."

"Captain! I am going to shoot him," the Spahi added presently.

"You shall do nothing of the kind," said the captain, peremptorily.

"But, Captain," implored the Spahi, "I shall be dishonored in the eyes of all my comrades if I do not salute him with at least one ball."

"Spahi," said the captain sternly, "you are under military rule. I forbid you to fire at present. Keep the beast well in sight but do not dare to raise your weapon without my orders."

Then leaving Ben Dris in command, Captain Grimblot hastened to inform the commander-in-chief of the unexpected encounter.

Soon the first regiment glowing with eager anticipation had drawn up before the free monarch of the wilds, that responded to the excited cries of the men by blinking his eyes, so it seemed, and faintly moving his tail.

"Come, my men, you have had your turn," cried the commander, and gave orders to move onward.

As the second regiment drew up in its turn the lion still remained apparently unmoved at what was passing before his eyes. White-robed Arabs and the clanking of armor were doubtless no novelty to him. Cavaliers in red and blue could not be every-day objects to him and yet even they failed to disturb his imperturbable repose.

One of the cavalry officers, a skillful draughtsman, reining up his horse proceeded to sketch the noble animal. By this time the lion was seen standing proudly erect. With unflinching gaze he regarded the draughtsman, whose eyes were fixed steadily on his. Then with an air of regal dignity, he moved grandly toward the column confronting him.

Apparently the armed force that was spellbound at his approach was ignored by him, so completely did his attention seem riveted on the cavalry officer whose gaze evidently fascinated him.

All at once there rang along the line the command: "Present arms!" In face of the wall of sharp, glittering bayonets here presented, the lion paused bewildered.

Still facing the men he assumed a crouching posture, as in defiance. Nothing more superb can be imagined. Then column after column of infantry, cavalry and artillery passed before the lion as before a majestic king, respectfully saluting him. The king of the desert followed their manœuvres with every sign of interest, and his great shaggy head nodded as in token of approbation.

As the last battalion came directly in line with the splendid animal, one of its gallant officers, St. George de Marcilly, yielding to an unconquerable impulse, seized his fusil from the servant who always bore it, and taking

aim was about to fire. In an instant a sentiment of sympathy took possession of him as overpowering as the warlike impulse that had previously guided his movements, and returning his fusil to his servant he exclaimed:

"No, it would be a shame to slay so noble a beast!"

At this juncture the spahi, no longer able to contain himself, raised his weapon and fired at the lion.

Great was the surprise of all present, as the smoke cleared away, to see the lion unharmed and undisturbed in his place. Moreover there appeared at his side a lioness with her three cubs, and he bore himself as their natural protector. It was most mysterious.

While everyone that beheld the sight was filled with wonder and awe, a monstrous sheet of water became unexpectedly visible, extending before the army far as the eye could reach. The sun's rays played on its surface with dazzling splendor, and the heated atmosphere seemed to spread a red and white canopy above it. Lion, lioness and cubs had all disappeared, and the army moved forward over the very spot where they had seemed to stand.

The entire expedition had been duped by the fantastic forms of a mirage of the desert.

THE TRUTH THAT DECEIVED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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"BOUT half a cup, Miss; I've only got three cents."

The speaker was a tall, well-built, though emaciated young man who sat uneasily at the kitchen table, watching a young girl who was pouring a cup of tea. He was a soldier, a Confederate, who had seen and experienced the terrors and privations of war.

"I guess a full cup, or two full cups will do you no harm," said the girl handing the soldier a brimming cup of tea; "put the change in your pocket."

"No, I guess they wouldn't do me any harm," said the soldier shrugging his shoulders, "but most folks expect cash for refreshments about these parts, and money's a scarce article, at least with the likes of me.

"I had money, though," he added, as though fearing she would take him for a deserter; "went up to Clayville and gave the old folks a lift, and that is all I have left."

"You are in danger here," said the girl, glancing out of the window; "only this morning a company of Union soldiers passed. You know what it means to be caught."

"They're after me now," replied the soldier, gulping down a great swallow of tea. "I have been dodging them for a day and a half. Their horses are pretty well done for, however, and I have managed to keep out of their way."

Suddenly the girl uttered a startled cry, seizing the soldier's arm and dragging him to the window.

"See," said she, "they are coming now."

A company of horsemen were advancing; the horses seemed used up.

The soldier grabbed his cap and started to run, detained, however, for an instant by the young woman.

"Run to the barn and saddle the horse if you have time; if not, then ride him bareback; start when I shut this window."

Meanwhile the horsemen were approaching, and presently they drew up before the door, from which the Confederate had departed a moment or two previous, passing unobserved to the stable, the gloom of the early evening hiding him, crouching as he did to the weatherbeaten house.

"Have you seen anything of a 'reb' about here?" demanded the lieutenant, addressing the young woman who sat by the window.

"Yes," replied the girl, speaking slowly, "yes, there is a Confederate here."

The lone soldier in gray had begged her to deceive the horsemen, declaring that she had seen nothing of him, and she promised—promised to help him out of the trap into which he had fallen. Instead, she had affirmed that he was there.

"A tall, broad-shouldered fellow, with dark moustache?" queried the lieutenant, eyeing the girl sharply.

"Yes, and he came from Clayville," replied the girl frankly.

"That's the man we are looking for," said the officer, smiling at the young woman's evident simplicity.

She had carelessly dropped a large Union flag over some sewing which she had been working upon—a flag which she had been repairing for her brother. The officer had noted the quick movement and it had excited his curiosity.

He dismounted and stepped into the room, followed by the handful of men who had come with him in search of the Confederate.

"A friend of the 'Blues' yet harboring a 'reb'?" said the lieutenant, a puzzled look spreading over his face. "What have you under the flag, Miss?"

The girl's foot moved under the covering, though the darkness concealed the agency, the movement of the flag, however, being clearly seen.

"What have I here?" replied the girl, demurely, "my sewing, to be sure; what did you suppose?"

The officer advanced and attempted to toss the flag to one side.

"Do you not believe me?" demanded the girl, almost fiercely. "I told you I had sewing here; please to keep your hands off, sir."

The lieutenant whistled softly. Again the flag moved perceptibly, and the soldiers saw it.

The lieutenant attempted to seize the corner of the flag, but the girl stepped quickly before him, grasping his wrist.

"The man who insults me by doubting my word, insults that flag," cried the girl, her eyes flashing. "I love that flag and I have told you the truth."

The officer angrily wrenched himself free, at the same time unsheathing his sword, viciously running it through the great flag.

"Come out of there, you 'reb,'" he cried, hoarsely.

The girl stood apart, watching the lieutenant, a peculiar light in her eyes; suddenly she burst into a rippling laugh.

"Now will you believe me, sir?" she demanded, her eyes sparkling.

One of the soldiers laughed and the rest followed suit, the lieutenant smiling in spite of himself.

"Where is that 'reb?'" he demanded, the blood mounting to his face.

"There is no rebel here," replied the girl.

"You said there was when first I spoke with you," said the officer.

"So there was, sir, then," retorted the young woman, "but he rode away when I closed that window."

The officer paused for a moment before the girl, undecided what to do; then, removing his cap, he held out his hand.

"You have done well, Miss," said he, "accept my congratulations."

Bravely the girl looked into the officer's eyes.

"I will tell you why I helped him to escape," said she, her voice trembling. "I love this flag sir, and it was not the *rebel* that I helped to escape, but the *man*. He had been up to Clayville to give his father and mother his quarter's pay, braving the danger of being captured. I thought him too brave and good a man to fall into your hands, sir."

"And he will not," said the officer, smiling. "He has too much the start of us, boys," said he, turning to the soldiers. "About face!"

Two days later a barefooted darkey, his face wreathed in smiles, rode up to the homestead of the young woman who told the truth, when a lie might have seemed the best means of accomplishing her end.

"Boss say fo' me to brung dis yere hoss up from yonder," said he, showing his ivories. "He say dat he was much 'bliged, an safe inside de lines."

A SNAP SHOT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY WARD GOULD.

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THE Gordons were very much exercised over the fact that some one was making, almost nightly, depredations upon their woodpile. With wood costing four dollars a cord, they didn't feel that they could afford to supply unscrupulous neighbors with fuel; but what exasperated them the most was to think that anyone should have the nerve to come within the shadow of their house and steal wood, as you might say, from under their very windows.

Several times Tom Gordon had himself remained stationed at a back window all night long with a loaded shot gun in his hands; but upon each of these occasions nobody had come, while perhaps, on the very next night someone would leave a large irregular cavity in the woodpile. There was no way of locking the shed for it had no doors; the front being open. The situation was getting desperate. That something would have to be done at once was very apparent.

Tom Gordon was one of those men usually known as a mechanical genius. He was always working upon some mechanical contrivance. Always upon the verge of some great invention. When Johnny was a baby, he had made a device by which the cradle was rocked with power furnished by the windmill on the roof. This worked very nicely for a time, and allowed Mrs. Gordon to attend to her housework while the baby was mechanically lulled to sleep. One day a sudden wind storm came up, and they found Johnny wedged under the sofa, while the cradle was a total wreck. This was only one of his many labor-saving inventions. When Tom Gordon began to think along mechanical lines, he usually evolved something, and when he took up the matter of the wood thief, Mrs. Gordon knew that something would be very likely to happen.

He spent the whole forenoon in considering the matter of mantraps, etc., and finally hit upon a scheme, which he concluded would not only be effective, but would at the same time afford a grand opportunity for the exercise and display of his ingenuity.

He had, of late, among other things, gone into amateur photography, very much to the discomfort of his wife, who had to give up her best closet for a dark room, and to put up with many other things which would be a sore trial to any housekeeper. So far he had not proved himself a success as a photographer. Notwithstanding that he had the family in an almost constant state of posing, with every possible variety of grouping and posture, and in all possible places, he had succeeded in making but one picture which was considered worthy of display in the parlor. And even this one, though the plate had gone through a combined bath of many chemicals, and was cooled down by a Russian bath of ice water, was, very much to the relief of the subjects, fast fading out. And yet, in spite of his many failures, it was the camera that he was going to depend upon to expose the villain who was stealing his wood. He spent the afternoon in the wood shed, where he placed the camera in such a position on one side that it commanded the entire front of the wood pile. He then stretched a wire across the shed, from side to side, directly in front of the wood, so that no one could approach without encountering it. This was connected with an electric battery. He then arranged other apparatus in such a way that the moment anyone pressed against the wire, several things would happen simultaneously. A revolver loaded with a blank cartridge would be discharged, the shutter of the camera would be opened, and an electric spark would ignite an extra large charge of flash light powder, which was placed near the camera on a pie tin. The revolver was not absolutely necessary, but it would furnish a dramatic effect and an artistic finish which was very gratifying to the would-be inventor; and would at the same time act as an alarm to awaken him when the exposure was made. He felt very well satisfied with the arrangements, and was impatient for the time to arrive when the apparatus should be given a chance to accomplish its purpose.

In the next yard to the Gordons and separated from them only by a board fence, was the residence of Father Gifford and his good wife Martha. The Reverend Gifford, though called father, was the pastor of an Episcopal flock and low church at that; but he was such a kindly, fatherly old man, that all who knew him delighted in giving him the title and he seemed to like it.

Promptly at ten o'clock the old man proceeded to lock the doors and windows before going to bed, as had been his custom for years.

"Now Pa," said Martha, "before you lock the kitchen door, be sure to call kitty in."

He opened the kitchen door and called long and loud, but no kitty came.

"Kitty won't come, Martha. I believe we shall have to leave her out tonight."

"Pa Gifford, if kitty is left out I sha'n't sleep a wink tonight. It would be a cruel shame to leave her out in the cold, and if you don't go out and find her, I will."

When Martha spoke that way, there was but one line of action open to Father Gifford; so he submissively put on his hat and went into the darkness in search of the truant pet.

"Kitty, kitty, kitty." There was a faint answering mew from the darkness.

"Come, kitty, come into the house." She ventured a little closer; he could just see her eyes and her little white paws.

"Come kitty, let me take you to your nice warm bed."

He advanced cautiously and tried to take her in his hands, but kitty evidently thought the old man had come out for a frolic, for she gamboled about with enthusiastic delight. The old man advanced slowly and kitty retreated gracefully until they had gone quite across the yard to the fence. Kitty went through the fence into the Gordons' yard, and looked back at her aged pursuer with triumph, as though she would challenge him to climb over. Father Gifford leaned over the fence and appealed to her with so much of heartfelt earnestness in his voice, that none but a feline could have resisted. But she, obdurate, stood looking saucily at him, lifting first one dainty paw and then another. She realized her advantage and revelled in it. She arched her little back up and rubbed back and forth against a tree, in happy appreciation of the old man's predicament. For just a moment the old man wavered, but the thought of Martha, back in the house, spurred him on, and he began to climb over the fence. It had been many years since he had attempted a feat of this kind, and as he let himself slowly down, on the other side, and disengaged the tail of his long clerical coat from the sharp end of a protruding nail, he congratulated himself upon the darkness.

Kitty, greatly amused at these proceedings, and highly gratified with herself at having enticed the old man over the fence, started out again in search of new exploits. Father Gifford now warming up to the occasion, quickened his pace, and even attempted a moderate sprint across the Gordons' back yard. Kitty bounded on ahead in high glee. The old man made a spurt as they neared the wood shed and pushed her pretty close; but she dashed into the shed and was up on top of the wood pile, like a flash. The old man, with arms extended, approached with caution, while kitty backed into the farthest corner. Seeing that she was being cornered, with very little chance of escape, she changed her tactics, and assumed a fighting attitude. With tail erect and eyes flashing, her back humped up to the very top of the shed, she stood hissing and spitting. Her body was all swollen up with rage, and Father Gifford, as he drew nearer, was wondering how her little skin could stand the pressure, when, suddenly, there was a loud report, a blinding flash, and the air was instantly filled with smoke.

Father Gifford burst into the presence of his wife, breathless and excited.

"For the land sake, Pa Gifford, what is the matter with you?"

She, too, had heard the report and was at a loss to account for it.

"Where is kitty?"

When he had recovered himself sufficiently to talk, he said:

"Martha, dear, I am afraid we shall never see our little kitty again. The last I saw of her she was standing on a wood pile, puffed up to a most unreasonable size; then there was a terrific explosion and that was the last of kitty."

"Ezra Gifford, what do you mean by coming here and telling me a story like that? Who ever heard of such a thing as a cat exploding? You must be crazy. Where have you been?"

"I can't help it, Martha, I have told you the plain truth and I can take you over in the morning and show you right where it happened."

But Martha would not be convinced. She could not believe that her dear little kitten would be so foolish as to blow herself up.

When Tom Gordon heard the report of the revolver, although he had gone to bed, he hurriedly dressed himself and ran out to the wood-shed. But by the time he arrived upon the scene everything was quiet again and there was no one in sight. He took the camera into the house and nearly all night long he was working in a subdued red light, with chemicals and baths.

When the first faint streaks of day lighted up the eastern sky, he had his printing frame out ready to catch the first rays of sunshine. As the sun mounted higher and higher into the heavens, he made frequent and impatient visits to the slowly developing picture, and with each visit he became more and more excited. Finally when he could contain himself no longer, he called to his wife:

"Amy, come here, I've got a picture of the wood thief, and I want to see if you recognize him."

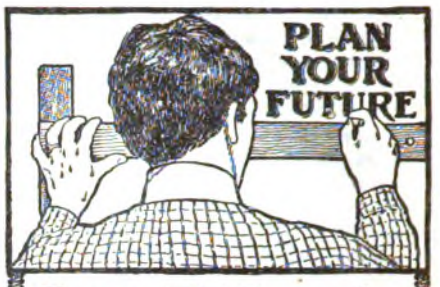
She cast one glance at the picture and then looked at her husband in blank astonishment. "Of all things! Who in this world would have thought that Father Gifford, of all men, would do a thing like that?"

But there was the evidence unmistakable. Tom Gordon had made the picture of his life. There was the Reverend Father Gifford with hands outstretched, in the very act of taking wood from their woodpile. The likeness was perfect. There was the venerable countenance, the gray beard and hair, and the clerical attire. There could be no mistake. Father Gifford was proven a wood thief.

"Tom, there is some one at the door. See who it is."

When Tom opened the door who should he see but the very culprit himself, looking as sweet and innocent as a new born babe.

"Mr. Gordon," said he, "did you see any pieces of a black and white cat around your wood-shed this morning?"



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FREDERICK AND THEREABOUTS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

"Summer's the time for fun."



So sang Grasshopper Green in the song, and so in their hearts sang the members of the National Geographic Society as the long train bearing them and their friends for a "field-day" in Frederick and Braddock's Heights, Md., pulled slowly out of Washington, D. C. They were following, as nearly as possible, the route taken by General Braddock and his troops when he came over from the mother country to quell at a blow, as they fondly thought, the French and Indian war. Alas, how mistaken they were! With no more knowledge and cunning than a babe of two years, with no experience of the difficulties of crossing these American wilds, they devoutly believed that it was only necessary for them to show their haughty heads and brilliant scarlet uniforms and victory would perch at once upon their banners.

In imagination we saw the proud old General meeting the convention of Colonial Governors in Alexandria, or Belhaven, as it was then called, on April 14, 1755. In imagination we listened to the plans for the pacification of the Indians of the Six Nations, and for making them presents. We hear the governors striving to persuade General Braddock to alter his proposed route to Fort Du Quesne, and we see the self-confident and obstinate old man stubbornly refuse to alter his plans one whit at the suggestions of those whom he considered far below himself in knowledge and ability. We know him to have been an honest and upright man, and the shrewdest and most skillful of all of England's military tacticians—a man who in ordinary warfare had not an equal—but we smile over his complete ignorance of the methods of Indian warfare, and we watch him with feelings of foreboding as he marches his troops out of Belhaven, and goes into the first camp of his journey at Rock Creek, near the present city of Washington.

As we steam along in the cars we follow as nearly as may be the track of the English army of one hundred and forty-four years ago, though, as we pass through the thriving towns and villages, and see the evidences of prosperity and wealth on every hand it is hard to realize that less than one hundred and fifty years ago most of this country was a howling wilderness through which the army was obliged to cut its way.

At length we reach Frederick, where is still standing the "tavern" where Benjamin Franklin, then postmaster-general for the English Colonies in America, and George Washington, newly appointed aid-de-camp to Braddock, met for the first time. This tavern is now, as then, a one storied log house of two rooms and a loft above, with a big, old-fashioned chimney at each end. It is now inhabited by negro families, and is fast falling into decay. One can but regret that such should be its fate. So important a relic of our country's history ought to be preserved from ruin.

In the old barracks, then Braddock's headquarters, and which are still preserved as one of the ancient landmarks of Frederick, was concerted between Braddock and Franklin a plan for forwarding despatches to and from Braddock's army. Here also was discussed between them the question of the provisioning and transportation of the army through the wilderness between Frederick and Fort Du Quesne, and here Braddock let fall expressions of his deep displeasure with the colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland for their refusal to advance funds for these purposes. Here Braddock purchased of Governor Sharpe of Maryland a magnificent coach and six horses for his own personal use in crossing the wilderness, and which he deemed necessary for the proper upholding and display of his dignity and authority, notwithstanding the difficulties of the path which he knew lay before him. Here Franklin magnanimously offered to be responsible for the procuring of a sufficient number of wagons and horses for the transportation of supplies, ammunition and men, which offer he fully carried out, as he induced the farmers of Pennsylvania, by his influence and adroitness, to spare to the soldiers one hundred and fifty wagons with four horses to each wagon, together with fifteen hundred saddle and pack horses. This action of Franklin's was of the greatest assistance to Braddock, but nearly proved the financial ruin of himself, as, after the death of the old general, he had no means of paying for them except from his own pocket, until finally General Shirley, Braddock's successor, came to his relief. Besides



WASHINGTON'S INN.

all which Franklin supplied him Braddock forcibly seized servants, horses, wagons, teamsters, carriages and carriage horses in and around Frederick to such an extent that the contractors who were building a new court house there found it difficult to procure teams to haul their materials. In these old barracks, too, Franklin urged upon the doughty general words of temperance and wisdom as to his encounters with the wily Indians, telling him that they would not wait his arrival at Fort Du Quesne, but would sneak along his difficult pathway, lay ambuscades, and harass his slender line to extermination long before he could reach the fort. He reminded him that his line, as he had planned it, would be exceedingly slender, and nearly four miles in length, thus offering a fair target to the arrows of the Indians, and that they knew every turn and fastness of the wilderness into which the army was about to penetrate, and could thus easily sever the line into small parts and so destroy it piecemeal; but to all his arguments Braddock turned a deaf ear, and every American knows the sad result.

In the streets of Frederick we found a procession of trolley cars waiting to take our party to Braddock's Heights, twenty miles away; and we clambered in, watched by an admiring crowd which had assembled to behold us. The beautiful modern buildings of Frederick, and the trolley cars with their motormen and conductors had drawn our minds back to 1899, but as we made our way through the outskirts of the city we were so amazed at the display of slat-sunbonnets offered us that we became bewildered and imagined ourselves again 'way back in "ye olden time." Every visible female (and their name was legion), whether in the house or on the street, peered at us from the depths of one of these pasteboard and gingham monstrosities, which, both in color and decoration, belonged to a far-past generation. The sight of an old stone tavern, with its outbuildings also of stone, massive and time-defying, and all evidently more than a century old, which we passed at a street corner, aided the illusion.

Our way now lay parallel to the old military road built and used by Braddock, which lay in plain sight, only a few rods away. Soon, as we wound up the side of the mountain, we came to Braddock's Spring, where his troops encamped while he and his officers were lodged in the barracks in the town. Here, near the spring, are the ruins of an old house, so overgrown with weeds and creepers that one might easily fancy them to be the ruins of a house put up to shelter the fastidious and aristocratic old general while on his visits to his soldiers.

Up and up we climb, and at last come to the mountain gap through which Braddock and his men finally marched, with proud heads, flaunting banners, and all the glory and pomp of a British army, to discomfiture and death. Here we will bid farewell to the brave but sorely mistaken hero and return to view Frederick in more modern guise.



MONUMENT TO FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.

As we draw near the city on our return we pass over the same old turnpike over which

"On that pleasant morn of the early fall
When Lee marched over the mountain-wall—"

Barbara Freitchie with the dear old, dishonored flag with its shattered staff in her hand

"* * * * leaned far out on the window-sill,
And shook it forth with a royal will"

and we can almost hear, above the rattle and roar of the electrics, the cry of the brave and patriotic old woman,

"Bowed with her fourscore years and ten,"
"Shoot, if you must, this old gray head,
But spare your country's flag * * * * *"

and the grand words of the shamed but brave General, Stonewall Jackson, to his troops,

"Who touches one hair of yon gray head
Dies like a dog. March on!" * * * * *

The little old house by the bridge where this drama of the Civil War was enacted, is gone now, and a brick business block has taken its place, but ever the spirit of Barbara Freitchie seems to haunt the place, and ever the stranger, passing by, sees the gray hair and flashing eye of the dauntless woman, and hears the brave tones of her tremulous voice. Barbara Freitchie has long been naught but a memory to her townspeople, for she lived but a few months after the episode which Whittier has immortalized, and today the traveler finds of her no trace but the graves of herself and her husband, side by side in the old walled cemetery of the Dutch Reformed Church in Frederick. Our initial shows a likeness of her.

Although this old Maryland city is not a place of great renown in the annals of the world, it has certainly done its share and given of its best in the upbuilding of the United States. Founded in 1645, it has seen our country grow from the smallest beginnings, and has contributed its full quota to its history and to its list of honorable men. All readers of the United States history will recall the two companies of riflemen raised here for the defence of the colonies in 1775 by Captain Michael Cresap; their long march to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they were the first company from the South to arrive; and the wonderful exhibitions of expert marksmanship with which they entertained the people of Cambridge. We remember the intense indignation shown by the people of Frederick at the passing enforcement of the Stamp Act, and the mock funeral given by them to celebrate its demise, when it was finally crushed out of existence.

Here many a noted man, Henry Clay, Patrick Henry, William Henry Harrison, Andrew Jackson, Winfield Scott, Lafayette, passed back and forth from their homes to their posts in Washington, or delayed to visit and be entertained by the citizens. Here was the home of Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the United States, 1836-1864, and author of the famous Dred Scott Decision; and here now rest his remains in the old graveyard belonging to the Roman Catholic Church of Frederick.



[The above company is worth over $1,000,000 and is reliable.—ED.]

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Francis Scott Key, author of our grand National Hymn, the Star-Spangled Banner, began his life here in 1795, and after his death in 1843 his body was deposited in Mount Olivet Cemetery, adjoining the city, where a magnificent monument has recently been erected to his memory.

Another of the men whom American citizens delight to honor, Winfield Scott Schley, has his home in the country, not far from Frederick, and many of his ancestors belonged here.

During the Civil War Frederick was in the midst of the contention, and many a tale its residents can tell of war and strife, of defeat and victory. Few who were then living here will ever forget the various invasions into their borders of both Federals and Confederates, or the excitement and terror of that July, 1864, when the Federal Army, after long resistance, marched out by night and by stealth, leaving to the Confederates the barren victory of taking possession of a town from which all Unionists had departed, taking with them their money, horses, and valuables of every kind. In revenge the Confederate troops demanded from the city government the sum of $200,000, failing which they would burn the town as it stood. To save their homes the people of Frederick with difficulty raised the required sum, and so saved the town from destruction.

As the day drew to a close our train bore us away from Frederick, and our last glimpse of the old city showed it to us bathed in the beautiful sunset light, and we bade it farewell on the exact spot where

"The clustered spires of Frederick stand,
Green-walled by the hills of Maryland."



THERE was at one time, and may still be, a horse in the United States army on the retired list, drawing a pension. This horse belonged to a near relative of General Custer, and was the only horse to escape the massacre in which the General was killed. His name is Comanche. He is cared for by a man who does nothing else, and his pension is sufficient to pay for his forage and for his transportation wherever he goes. He was found, after the battle, many miles away, with seven wounds and nearly exhausted from loss of blood. Upon his death he will be prepared and sent to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

The Russian royal family is descended from Michael Romanoff elected czar in 1613.

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with chain is a great comfort to any mother and a neat and pretty affair for the child to wear, these gold plated Dress Pin Sets are being sold at Jewelry stores for 50c. each, but being anxious to introduce our monthly into new homes we bought several thousand sets of these fine chain pins and will send one set free to all who enclose 17c. for a special trial six months' subscription to "COMFORT." Two sets and a year's subscription for 25c. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Me.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Through the peculiar manner in which Congress has worked out its legislative methods, the Speaker of the House is the second man in the nation in political importance and influence. In some respects he possesses even more power than the President. For the first time in the history of the nation the honor is to be given to a man from west of the Mississippi river. The Hon. David B. Henderson of Iowa has been selected by the Republican leaders as the speaker of the next House. Mr. Henderson is familiar with the machinery by means of which the Speaker exercises his power. He has been a member of the Committee on Rules. It is through this committee that the Speaker exercises his authority. Mr. Henderson is also chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He has had a Congressional career of nearly twenty years, commencing his services as a member of the Forty-eighth Congress in 1882. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Col. Henderson enlisted in an Iowa regiment. The young private was but twenty-one years of age but he was at once made first lieutenant. He won promotion by bravery but in 1863 he lost a foot in battle. For about a year he served as a recruiting officer but resumed active duty again as the colonel of the Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry. When the war was over, he began the study of law and was admitted to the bar. He served for several years as collector of internal revenue. His active practice of law began in Dubuque, Iowa. Mr. Henderson is popular in his home where he receives many votes from his Democratic neighbors. No man in Congress has greater personal popularity. Notwithstanding his aggressive support of Republican principles he is popular with the opposition. He has the confidence of his associates and is known as a man of strict honesty and strong convictions. He is an eloquent speaker and a skilled debater. While he is firm and vigorous in the enforcement of his ideas it is not supposed that he will adopt all the methods that earned Mr. Reed the title of Czar.

Popular opinion may be divided in regard to prosecutors of the war in the Philippines but there is but one opinion concerning the man who has won fame on the battlefield. General Funston has shown a dashing bravery that has won him promotion and the enthusiastic admiration that is always given to pluck and grit. Like so many other well-known men he claims Ohio as his birthplace. He is of Scotch-Irish descent and comes of a race of hard workers and fighters. General Funston inherits his small stature from his mother as his father is a giant physically. Funston was brought up in Kansas and passed from the ordinary district school to the High School and then to the State University at Lawrence, Kansas. He was noted for studiousness and for a remarkable memory which retained a heterogeneous mass of facts with great accuracy and detail. His father thinks today that his son's career should have been in scholastic fields instead of on the battlefield. Young Funston was train cashier on the Santa Fe for a time but became interested in the collecting expeditions sent to the west from the State University. He had a short experience as a newspaper reporter and was then sent into New Mexico by the Department of Agriculture. His life here was wild enough to satisfy even his love of adventure. His horse slipped from under him and was dashed over a cliff 1,000 feet in height while the future general clung to some shrubs and crawled back into safety. He made an expedition to Alaska in the interest of the government. He has spent some time as a lecturer on the topics of interest that have come under his observation. There was however a wild vein in the Celtic blood that would not down, and Funston enlisted in the Cuban army. He fought in twenty-two battles, was wounded in the lungs and through the arm and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel and the command of all the artillery east of Havana. When the United States declared war against Spain, Funston obtained the command of the Twentieth Regiment of Kansas. He went to Tampa where he gave General Miles much valuable information concerning the Cuban climate and the condition of affairs. He was ordered to the Philippines and on his way was married to Miss Eda Blankart in San Francisco. His personal bravery and daring have made him a popular idol since then. He writes in an unusual manner the student, the soldier and the wild love of change and adventure that makes border lives. He is a quiet, modest man, not at all fanciful or imaginative. He is thoroughly informed upon a variety of topics among them being the tariff, Alaskan mining, the Arctic fisheries, the tea and coffee trade of the world; geographical measurements, and the army. Those are subjects that have come under his attention from his varied occupations. He possesses the faculty of possessing himself at once of all obtainable information in regard to the particular thing that he is then occupied with. As he never forgets a fact his fund of information is as vast as it is varied. He has the faculty of intense absorption in the matter of the moment and his success may lie in this ability to concentrate and to throw all his energy in the subject.



Cynthia Westover Alden is one of the best known newspaper women in the United States. She has made the Woman's Page of the New York Tribune one of the strongest features of the paper. She has put the dignity, versatility and life into the pages of her journal. Mrs. Alden is one of the officers of the International League of Press Clubs and represented the Press Women of the United States at the International Council of Women held in London during the past summer. Mrs. Alden is a tall, commanding looking woman with a face that shows the strong character and the womanliness that have enabled her to win her enviable place in the ranks of plucky women who have succeeded. She has outlined the story of her life in "Bushy" one of her latest books. Her childhood and early girlhood were spent in the mining camps and lonely mountain trails of the West. Her father is a mineralogist and mining expert and after the death of her mother, the little girl of four was his constant companion. She learned to shoot anything from buffaloes to Indians, to ride and to speak Spanish and various Indian dialects. She was finally placed in a public school and from the public schools of Denver she passed into the State University where she took a degree and the honors in mathematics. She taught and paid for her own education. During the vacations she went to the annual roundish where her old friends the cowboys welcomed the college girl as their old friend Bushy. They called her "Our Girl" and branded stray cattle with O. G. The sale of these cattle paid for her last year in college. After teaching a year she determined to come to New York and to make her living as a singer. Instruction and living in New York are both expensive but Cynthia Westover solved the problem on one side by a hall bedroom and fifteen cents a day for meals. The meals were a plate of soup for dinner and a loaf of bread for breakfast and lunch. A tuning fork took the place of a piano and with these helps she fought her way to a position as soprano in a city church. She next received a position as inspectress in the Custom House through a competitive examination. During this time she learned French, German and Italian. She resigned this position to become private secretary to the commissioner of street cleaning. Her knowledge of Italian was very useful to the department in their dealings with the street laborers. Mrs. Alden invented a dump cart which is in general use. She has a medal for this achievement from the Parisian Society of Inventors. Mrs. Alden was successively superintendent of a candy factory and a cataloguer in the Missions of Natural History. Her knowledge of mineralogy and geology has stood her in good stead more than once, private lessons in those sources eking out her income when she was studying music. She commenced doing newspaper work during this period and in 1895 became editor of the Woman's Page of the New York Recorder, going from that paper to the Tribune. She married Mr. Alden who was one of the editors of the Recorder. She has shown the genius, capacity and versatility of the best type of American womanhood. Her sincerity, her honesty and her determination have been potent factors in her success. Mrs. Alden always has a kind word and a helping hand for others who are making the struggle that she has turned into success. Her simplicity of manner, her wide experience and her tactfulness mark the polished woman of the world, but the warm-hearted cordiality is that of the child of frontier days.

The recent death of Rosa Bonheur has awakened interest in the best known of her famous paintings—the Horse Fair. The original canvas is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. It was first owned in this country by A. T. Stewart the merchant prince and was purchased at the sale of his pictures in 1887 by Cornelius Vanderbilt for $55,000 and presented to the Art Museum. It is the second large canvas painted by Rosa Bonheur and is said to be the largest canvas ever produced by an animal painter. Miss Bonheur began her study for the picture by painting the portraits of horses owned by friends and finally began to visit the stock yards of Paris. The attention she attracted led her to adopt male attire—a fashion she ever after followed. The picture was exhibited at the Paris Salon of 1853 and was awarded all the honors. Bonheur sent the picture in 1855 to her native town of Bordeau and offered to sell it to the town for $2,400. A dealer wished to purchase it to take to England for the purpose of having it engraved. Miss Bonheur said the price would be $8,000 if it left France. The town did not purchase the picture and the dealer procured it for the price named. Miss Bonheur said he had paid a noble price and as she did not believe so large a picture would engrave well she offered to make a quarter size replica as a gift. This was done and the small picture is now in the National Gallery in London. A second still smaller replica was sold in London some time ago for $20,000. A water color drawing of the same picture was sold for $12,000. The Horse Fair is one of the best-known pictures in the world as it has been engraved and reproduced by all the modern processes but its popularity does not seem to lessen. Rosa Bonheur was but thirty years of age when she painted this smaller piece.



The Czarowitz George of Russia whose tragic death occurred during the summer lived under the cloud that seems to follow the title of Czarowitz. The word means "son of the Czar" yet it has often been borne by the brother of the ruling monarch. It is a title rather than a sign of heirship to the throne and has often been borne by other than the named successor to the throne. It is a rule of the royal house of Russia that the Czar must name his successor the day of his coronation. In the event of that successor's death the next heir must be named within twenty-four hours. In accordance with this custom the Czar named his younger brother Michael as his successor before the world had heard the news of the death of Czarowitz George. Grand Duke Michael may be congratulated that the title Czarowitz has not been conferred, as a tragic fate has overshadowed all who bore the Muscovite title. The heir presumptive is a little over twenty-one years of age. His personal characteristics are but little known but he is said to be under the influence of his mother the dowager Empress and in sympathy with her policy which is one of reaction and anti-liberal in the extreme. In case the Emperor is unable to fill the duties of his rank or dies leaving a minor son, Duke Michael is entitled to the regency. The rumors that the Czar is mentally unbalanced and that he means to abdicate marks the character of this hitherto unknown boy of great importance. It is said that the officials of the Russian Government are in sympathy with the reactionary policy of the Grand Duke and entirely opposed to all the liberal ideas of Czar Nicholas. For this reason the Czar meets with strenuous opposition whenever he tries to change the old spirit of Russian Government. Grand Duke Michael will be heir presumptive until the Empress gives birth to a son. Her third daughter has awakened interest in the old Isigane prophecy that the Empress would give birth to seven daughters before a son was born. It is the general feeling that Grand Duke Michael has a strong chance to become the next ruler of Russia.

"There's a little red faced man
Which is Bobs,
Rides the tallest 'orse he can
Our Bobs,"

are the lines written about the best-known soldier in England, Lord Roberts of Kandahas. "Bobs" is the idol of the rank and file of the army of England. Lord Roberts is the son of a soldier and his son in turn is keeping up the fighting traditions of the family under Kitchener. Lord Roberts' son saw his first hard service in the Indian mutiny of 1857. He has been wounded again and again but Tommy Atkins believes that Bobs can not be killed. Lord Roberts wears the Victoria cross among many other decorations given for signal bravery in the field. At the Queen's Jubilee it seemed as though the throngs were shouting for "Bobs" alone so continuous was the roar of applause that followed him. It would take a book to tell the exciting scenes that have followed fifty years' campaigning in India. "Bobs'" horse Vonolel is the only horse in the world that wears a decoration bestowed for distinguished military service. By command of the Queen, Vonolel wears the medal of Kandahar in his breast strap. Lord Roberts is an ardent temperance man and one out of every eight of her majesty's soldiers has joined the Army Temperance Association which Lord Roberts reorganized about ten years ago.

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Some time ago a well known business man whose stomach and nerves were ruined by the tobacco habit was secretly given a remedy by his wife and he never knew what cured him of the habit. He suddenly evinced such a dislike for tobacco that he concluded the weed had finally floored him and that his own determination made him quit; she then treated her son, a young man just 21. He was a cigarette fiend, inhaling the deadly fumes almost constantly and he too was made sick of the "weed." His mother enjoys a quiet laugh to herself, at the manner in which the young man tells of how he came to the conclusion that cigarettes were "drugged and poisoned now-a-days and not fit to smoke."

The remedy is odorless and tasteless, can be mixed with coffee or food and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. The remedy contains nothing that could possibly do injury. It is simply an antidote for the poisons of tobacco and takes nicotine out of the system. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. The remedy is called Tobacco Specific and a free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug and Chemical Co., 236 Fifth and Race Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio. This will help any woman to solve the problem of curing her husband, son or brother of a habit that undermines the health leaving the body susceptible to numerous lingering and dangerous diseases.

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OUR FAR AWAY POSSESSIONS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



EVERY reader of COMFORT will remember the fear we all had a year ago or more when the Spanish fleet was hovering near our coast because it was accompanied by torpedo boats. There was great public fear that we were so weak in one naval arm, the torpedo boat, that we should have no chance in a fight. We also remember how night after night the searchlights on the great ships both at Havana and Santiago swept the seas in constant watchfulness for these night hawks of the sea.

Happily our fears were not realized but there can be no possible doubt that the lesson then taught was learned completely and now in the building up of that navy of which we are all so proud are being placed in it some of the fastest boats ever produced. These boats are mechanical workers and small as they are attain the great speed of thirty knots, or nearly thirty-five miles, an hour. Torpedo boats pure and simple originally were swift little steamers armed with torpedoes and intended to attack great warships in the darkness and then retreat, relying on superior speed to escape.

When the torpedo boat had attained the reputation, European nations commenced building destroyers, that is, torpedo boats on larger scale and also armed with a battery of rapid fire guns capable of blowing a torpedo boat to pieces before she could reach the point of attack. Although the American navy retain the name torpedo boats, they in reality are the same class as the European destroyer. Four of this dangerous class of fighters are practically ready to be added to the navy. They are named after American naval heroes, *Dahlgren*, *Bailey*, *Craven* and *Stringham*, all of them being exceptionally fine and swift boats. Our picture shows the *Stringham* on a two-hour dash of 60-miles, the government test. These boats are about 200 feet long and sharp as knives. The cost completed is in the neighborhood of $200,000 each.

The assassination of President Heureux of Santo Domingo by some political opponents has thrown the whole island into insurrection. A picture of the murdered President in full uniform shows him to have been a handsome colored man of pleasant looks. The warfare which has been going on reads like some of the burlesques of warfare in comic operas; but there is a very serious side to the question which involves our own country. The island is next to Porto Rico and many of its inhabitants now wish to be annexed. Property holders are tired of the burlesque government, while others are ambitious for a new government.

Meanwhile the government has sent two warships to protect American interests and to prevent filibustering from Porto Rico and Cuba. On the latter island is General Jimenez, who has been organizing the rebellion from Cuban soil. It is believed that his followers are responsible for the assassination. Close watch was kept upon him and he was arrested by military authorities just as he was about to take a steamer at Cienfuegos. The Cubans, who generally side with him, were indignant and many threats were made. To avoid trouble he finally was released from arrest. General Juan Isidro Jimenez is a fine specimen of manhood and a noted leader. As soon as he took personal charge of the revolution the people looked upon him to prove as great a leader as Garcia proved for the Cuban insurgents. Consequently he has been proclaimed president and the country has accepted him with acclamation.



JUAN ISIDRO JIMENEZ.

The resignation of Secretary Alger from his position in the War Department caused the press writers to turn their guns upon a new party to criticise. It is now General Otis' turn to suffer and there seems to be a very general desire to replace him in command with a general of more decision and force. It is undoubtedly true that his conduct of the war in the Philippines has aroused the severest criticism among his officers and men who are amazed and indignant at his indecisive tactics. This lack of definite purpose and fighting qualities is hurting us in the islands and giving the Filipinos encouragement. Much talk has been made that the administration intends to replace Otis with General Merritt, who may be depended upon to fight with purpose and distinction, and while not actually discrediting him to make him the civil head of the provisional government and leave Gen. Merritt to plan the war.

Notwithstanding the press, President McKinley evidently believes that he has more information than the ordinary reader and it seems evident that Gen. Otis with an army of 50,000 men with plenty of supplies will be a very different man than with a small army that cannot be weakened by leaving garrison in every captured town.

Secretary Root has taken a firm hold at the war department and is acting with great grasp and decision. The additional army is being rapidly raised and already part of it is on its way to the Philippines. After the rainy season the cool, dry days of November come and with it we may look for an early crushing out of the insurrection. After that it will be seen that our intentions for a free local government are carried out. Many of the political criticisms on the administration are made for party advantage. As a matter of fact it is evident so far as present intentions are concerned, all Americans stand on practically the same ground.

Had Great Britain not been so friendly to America during the Spanish war it is probable that the present would have been a time of trouble and dissension. Ever since the large finds of gold in the Klondike region the transportation has been from Seattle, Vancouver and other ports to the Alaskan coast. A glance at the map will show that the coast is much indented often having deep arms of the sea pushing far inland. On these bays the principal seaports are built. Under the understanding that has always existed, the terms of the sale and treaties have given the United States the interpretation that the phrase "a point ten miles from the coast and following the same" meant a line following ten miles including the indentations. So long as the country was uninhabited it made little or no difference; but now all is changed and Canada finds herself cut off from all accessible seaports to connect with the Yukon district. As a consequence all goods have to be shipped to American ports.

The claim was at once made that the line was intended to be a straight line cutting off many bays and "canals" and placing them, at least in part, in Canadian territory. The issue at one time threatened to become serious even to a rupture of peaceful relations; but notwithstanding the warlike threats of the Canadian leaders, statesmen in the two countries have settled upon a satisfactory mode for temporary purposes, by which the absolute settlement will be made later and the boundary definitely agreed on. In the meantime Canada acquires temporary rights in a port of entry on the Lynn canal. These pleasant results are largely the work of Senator Fairbanks, American chairman of the commission engaged on disputed questions of American and Canadian interests.

Senator Fairbanks is at present one of the most prominent men in our foreign relations. He is a comparatively young man, having been born in 1852 in a log cabin in Union County, Ohio, with a sugar trough for a cradle. Senator Fairbanks is a typical, successful, self-made, American. Born in the rough poverty above indicated, he as a boy cleared up 200 acres of land while attending the district school. Ambitious to learn, he entered college with one suit of clothes and forty-one dollars in his pocket. It is said a local clothes dealer refused him credit on a three dollar pair of trousers. In company with an equally poor fellow-student he shared living expenses and ate for food bread, potatoes and corn mush, all this time adding to his income by working as a carpenter on Saturdays at a dollar and a quarter a day. In this hard school he fought out his battle until he entered the bar as a lawyer, since when he has gradually advanced until his election as U. S. Senator two years ago.



SENATOR C. W. FAIRBANKS.

It is sometimes said "it is an ill wind that blows no good," and certainly this could be said of the terribly destructive hurricane that swept the West India islands early in August. Not only in the hurricane itself did our soldiers heroically stand by the natives and save thousands of lives; but our whole nation quickly responded to Secretary Root's call for aid to the distressed. It is said that from 2000 to 3000 Porto Ricans were killed and that 100,000 lost everything. Accustomed as this new people were to Spanish apathy to their distress, it was a revelation to see what humanity could be displayed by an American government. It will undoubtedly win goodwill and loyalty among this people, who have hardly become acquainted with us yet. Severe as this storm was, Cuba nearly escaped loss, though all the islands of the Antilles suffered to a greater or less extent. Our government is already laying the first stones for the foundation of Cuban self-government. All the preparations for a new census, the figures of which will be available on January 1st, have been made. This will replace the Spanish census of 1886, which was inaccurate. Under our census it is intended to obtain the usual statistics which accompany the count of the people in this country; so that our government may have reliable *data* at hand when considering the welfare and needs of the Cubans in their proposed local government. The good faith of the United States is being shown by the rapid appointment of native Cubans to offices of local trust so far as is possible. The general condition of the island seems everywhere to show improvement and advancement. As soon as there is a settled and stable government,



GEN. E. S. OTIS.

millions of dollars will be put into industrial schemes which now remain but partly developed on account of the uncertainty of the future. This distrust will disappear and confidence come as soon as the capitalists can be assured that no such government as appears in the so-called Spanish republics is to take the place of the Spanish rule in Cuba. When a strong, stable government shows a permanency of institutions we may look to see Cuba become one of the wealthiest lands, area considered, in the whole world.

IN CONSUMPTION'S GRASP.

MRS. JULIA A. DYE TELLS OF HER SON'S MARVELOUS CURE WITH DR. SLOCUM'S TREATMENT.

From Hemorrhage and Rapid Decline the Famous Physician Led Him to Health and Strength. Now Weighs 170 Pounds.

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The cures being daily recorded show that the eminent physician has at last discovered an absolute specific for the deadly bacilli, or rather a series of specifics, there being four separate preparations in the full course, which is sent out free of cost to all who apply.

Lung weakness and consumption are so dangerous and rapid that Dr. Slocum realizes the necessity of making as many cures as possible without charge, for the benefit of the examples to others who have long since despaired of relief, let alone a cure.

The case of M. H. Dye, of Gibson, Ky., is one which has astounded everybody in that part of the state; but it is a mere repetition of the grand work being performed all over the country by the most celebrated lung specialist in the world.

Read the testimony.

Mrs. Julia A. Dye, writing for her son, M. H. Dye, of Gibson, Ky., says:—

"My son contracted consumption, which began with a coid in his chest about a year ago. He grew worse rapidly; and finally had hemorrhages, which made him weaker every day. We did not think he could recover, for all treatments we tried had little or no effect. After months of despair I finally read in Pentecostal Herald about Dr. Slocum's far-famed discoveries for curing the most hopeless cases of consumption, and knowing this paper would not publish untruthful news, I sent for one of the Free Treatments, and with little real faith my son began taking it. The effect was wonderful! He began to mend at once; the hemorrhages stopped; then the cough ceased; he began to gain in strength and weight, and is now entirely cured, and weighs 170 pounds. I gladly send you this testimony, and my earnest prayer is that others may know what Dr. Slocum has done for my son. May the blessings of God ever be with you for discovering and introducing this wonderful treatment. Please send this testimony to the Elizabethtown Leader; also the Herald. I shall do all I can to spread the good news of the miracle you have worked."

No matter how utterly hopeless your case may seem, Dr. Slocum's discoveries, which usher in a new era in medical treatment, will cure you as it has thousands of others. As the candle gave way to oil, and oil to gas and electricity, so also is the old consumptive treatment giving way to Slocum, who is receiving the praises of the greatest medical men of the world.

If you have any form of lung trouble, asthma, pulmonary or wasting away discases, write to-day for the full course of Free Treatment and it will be sent promptly. Not a little sample, but four generous size preparations, which will work wonders.

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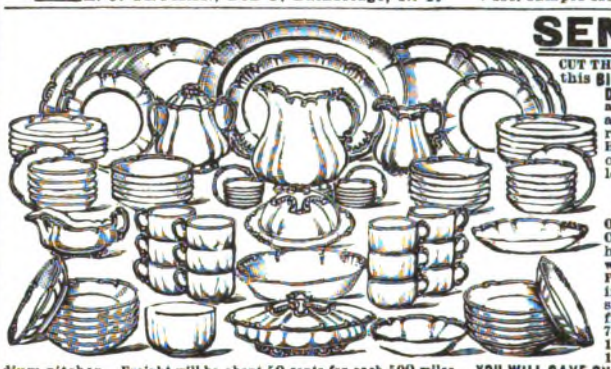


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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

"ACCIDENTS will happen even among the best riders" we might transpose the old adage to read, and so I am going to give some simple rules which were compiled by a physician, himself a wheelman, and which it will be well for you all to cut out and save, even if you do not literally "paste them in your hat."

Injuries received in riding are almost always bruised wounds, and hemorrhages would very seldom be a very serious complication. Firm pressure with the fingers or with a suitably adjusted dressing at the place where the bleeding is will meet the majority of cases. Should the bleeding be very severe from a limb and not controlled by these means, one should apply a tourniquet by circling the limb with a bandage and then twisting this with a stick thrust beneath it until the blood can no longer flow into the limb from the body.

Fractures of all bones in the body have one time or another resulted from bicycle accidents and it is important that they should be properly cared for. The seriousness of the injury depends first upon the question whether in addition to the breaking of the bone the flesh has been so injured that air can enter. A simple fracture in proportion to the severity of the injury heals more kindly than almost any other. All that is necessary is that the broken fragments of bone should be placed and held in their proper position and in a definite length of time, which differs in different bones they will become firmly united by a new growth of osseous tissue.

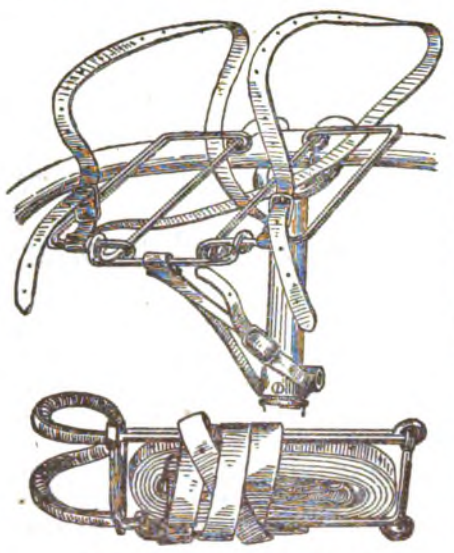
When a fracture has taken place it will be evident by the pain and the fact that the limb will bend at a place where it naturally is stiff, and by a deformity caused by the misplaced bone. A fractured limb should be brought to as nearly as possible the same shape as its fellow of the opposite side. Then it should be supported by splints, which can be made from almost any kind of a stick. These should be thoroughly padded by a wrapping of some soft material, and then bound along the sides of the limb. The splints should always be long enough to extend over and beyond the joint above and the one below the seat of fracture.

A bruise or contusion consists of an injury to the tissue in which the small blood vessels have been broken, allowing the escape of blood into the flesh and under the skin. The very best treatment for a bruise is the application of water as hot as can be borne without actual scalding, though this is a trifle hotter than the patient thinks necessary. Curiously enough, the next best treatment, when hot water is not obtainable, is very cold water. If there is great pain the clothing may be saturated with laudanum or alcohol.

A lacerated wound, that is one with ragged edges, must usually heal not by immediate union of its edges, such as is called first intention, but by a more tedious process of throwing off the bruised organisms and the growth of new flesh and skin.

The essential thing in the care of such a wound is cleanliness and subsequent protection from infection. The wound should be thoroughly cleansed with water, preferably water that has been boiled. Then the wound should be protected by a suitable dressing. The ideal dressing prevents the entrance of air and dust, while at the same time it allows the escape of any fluid that may form in the wound. It may also be saturated with something that has the property of destroying germs, but it must not thereby be rendered irritant to the wound. This is so difficult to accomplish that better average results are obtained by dressings which though not antiseptic, are still thoroughly clean and very absorbent. While any cotton or linen fabric may be used, perhaps the most desirable is the soft cheesecloth. This material may be quickly rendered surgically clean by boiling for fifteen minutes or by placing in a hot oven and heating it just short of the burning point. The dressing should be applied, as a rule, dry. It is best to fold closely a good quantity of the material to cover the wound with it and then bind this in place with a bandage of some kind. Bandages can always be successfully improvised from handkerchiefs.

When a person is thrown from a wheel and lands on the head he is very likely to be unconscious for a time. This may be due to a simple jarring of the brain, which for the time being prevents it from acting, or it may be due to a fracture of the skull, or a rupture of a blood-vessel which has given rise to a blood clot pressing on the brain.



FOLDING LUGGAGE CARRIER.

If the fall is so severe that internal organs have been injured, the case resolves itself usually into the management of the condition of shock. Remember the cardinal principle of absolute rest in a recumbent position, warmth and stimulation. If the patient is spitting up blood or vomiting blood, there is nothing better that the amateur surgeon can do than to keep him absolutely quiet and trust to nature to bring the hemorrhage to an end. Hemorrhages usually terminate of themselves and there is really greater danger of prolonging them by meddlesome treatment such as putting anything into the stomach, than there is probability of accomplishing any good. There are many cases where the care of the patient outbalances the care of his injury in importance. When a person has received a severe injury very often he is in a state of complete collapse, the appearance of which you will never forget after you have once seen it. The treatment of shock resolves itself into the treatment of symptoms; the heart's feeble action calls for stimulants, the extremely cold surface calls for the application of external heat, the low condition of the person's strength calls for its conservation by leaving him as nearly as possible without interference.



HOW TO MOUNT A WHEEL. RIGHT SIDE.

The following extract from the book, First Aid to the Injured is of interest here:

Provide yourself with a light wooden or tin box, preferably with a cover sliding lengthwise, the inside measurements of the box being length 18 in., breadth 6 in., height 4 in.

The following supplies should be neatly packed in it:

Two splints—i. e., thin pieces of board, 17 1-2 inches long, 3 1-2 inches wide, 1-4 of an inch thick (boxwood).

Two shorter splints, 12 inches long and 3 inches wide.

An Esmarch tourniquet—i. e., a strip of rubber 48 inches long, 3-4 of an inch wide and 3-16 of an inch thick.

Four ounces absorbent cotton.

Four unbleached muslin roller bandages, 3 inches by 6 yards.

Four triangular bandages, lower border to measure 4 feet, side borders 2 feet 10 inches.

Two sponges, two to three inches in diameter.

One paper of pins, large ones.

Six needles, threaded with coarse white cotton thread.

One yard rubber adhesive plaster (in tin box).

Two ounces of laudanum, with label indicating use.

Two ounces whiskey, with label indicating use, especially in shock.

Now, here are the rules which it will be well for you to preserve, but here's hoping you will never need them.

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Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

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Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have **a single one of the** above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will **send the free tablets to prove** it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. **Inclose stamp for postage.**

Address **DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 Augusta, Maine.**



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Gertrude E. Upton,	**$3.00**
Margaret Spencer,	**2.50**
Arthur S. Murphy,	**2.00**
Albert A. Pierce,	**1.50**
George Johnson,	**1.00**

"Along the river's summer walk,
The withered tufts of asters nod;
And trembles on its arid stalk,
The hoar plume of the goldenrod.
And on a ground of sombre fir,
And azure-studded juniper,
The silver birch its buds of purple shows,
And scarlet berries tell where bloomed the sweet wild rose.

And I will trust that he who heeds
The life that hides in mead and wold,
Who hangs yon alder's crimson beads,
And stains these mosses green and gold,
Will still, as he hath done, incline
His gracious care to me and mine;
Grant what we ask aright, from wrong debar,
And, as the earth grows dark, make brighter every star."

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Text and sermon all in one, and the dear old Quaker, Whittier, for the preacher. It is too beautiful for me to mar with a word of mine, and we will go on to the letters.

Our first letter is written by one who has herself recently completed a course in librarianship, so she surely knows of what she speaks, and perhaps her words will help some other young girl with whom the question "What shall I choose for an occupation?" is still a burning one. She says:



CONTRARY to the times of our grandparents, young girls now expect to earn their own bread and butter, and it is not an uncommon thing for them to ask, 'What shall I do to earn my living?' Perhaps no occupation offers so much attraction as librarianship and yet no other profession is so little understood.

"In the first place what does it mean to be a librarian? Formerly, when libraries for the public were few and small, any one who could distribute books to the public and keep account of them was supposed to be qualified for librarian ship; but in the present day, when humanity is ascending higher and higher on the ladder of progress, and public libraries are increasing in size and wealth, the field of the librarian has become vastly widened until it has grown to be a science.

"As the importance of the extent and scope of the knowledge of the librarian is becoming more and more recognized so the demands for a skillful and efficient custodian of books increase in direct proportion. That librarian is most valuable who can best serve the public, and to serve the public well requires more than an ordinary knowledge of books. By a knowledge of books I do not mean that one must read every book of any note, but he must be familiar with the great range of books in general on any subject whatsoever, so as to be able to direct or advise students in their different lines of research. This knowledge is not possessed by the average individual and consequently must be acquired through careful study of the national literatures and perusal of book reviews and criticisms. This knowledge of books, called bibliography, includes, besides acquaintance with the leading works on all subjects, their authors and titles, knowledge of editions, printing and binding, as well as classification and cataloging of books. A librarian should have his information ready at his fingers' ends and be able to meet any demand in any department of learning. So his training should be the broadest and yet the most impartial.

"Another qualification is now demanded; a knowledge of at least two modern languages—French and German. The librarian who knows neither or only one of these can never be familiar with the contents of his own library. He is constantly at a loss when questioned about the foreign books in his charge, and is often embarrassed through ignorance of them. He can not read his foreign periodicals and reviews so necessary to his efficiency and capability.

"The demand for highly educated and trained librarians is daily increasing and consequently many training schools for this purpose have been established. Statistics show that the number of women in the library business is steadily growing and will soon exceed the number of men. It is a profession peculiarly fitted for the former, as it requires a taste and refinement which are naturally possessed by women. As the best is required so the best will be forthcoming and though it may seem to many that there is no room for them in library work, 'there is always room at the top.'"

GERTRUDE E. UPTON, Washington, D. C.

Now here is an exceedingly well-written article by Louretta C. Cole, on the Hawaiian Islands, but as it is only a compiled article I cannot use it. Salona Merritt, of Helena, Montana, is another cousin whose interesting article on Mrs. Dolly Madison must be refused for the same reason. I am very sorry.

Next let us visit the quaint old church of San Miguel in Santa Fe, under the guidance of our cousin, Margaret Spencer.

"During our interesting and historic journey through New Mexico, nothing was more impressive and quaint than the old San Miguel church, which stands, a relic of centuries, in the heart of Santa Fe. San Miguel was built in the sixteenth century, and entirely destroyed during the great Pueblo revolution of 1680. In 1710 the Marquis de Penola caused it to be rebuilt on the same ground, preserving the stones, and shape as much as possible, from his own ideas of an ancient church.

As early as 1538 De Baca passed through the Rio Grande valley, and found Santa Fe quite a prosperous Pueblo village; but in 1680, when San Miguel was destroyed by the revolution, the early records of the country were lost, and the entire history of its European settlement swept away by the destruction of the archives and their treasures.

"Of this old church we had heard wondrous stories, read descriptions of its plaster walls, its odd style and sacred traditions, so from our hotel, one summer morning, we took a carriage and drove



SAN MIGUEL CHURCH AND ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE.

there to six o'clock mass. We passed into the church by the low door behind the stone wall, to find service already begun and the worshipers all kneeling on the cold stone floor. Outside the sunshine of a cloudless day flooded the gray stones, gilded the slender cross and gave to the very walls a glory of morning, and life and praise; inside it was dark, cold, and dreary. Crumbling plaster, cracks and marks of ages, as it looked to be to us, told stories of long years, of lives and deaths and strange histories.

"The women were wrapped, like all Mexican women, in vibosas or mantas, their hands and arms hidden in the black folds. The dark faced men bowed to the cold stone floor, now and then glancing at the altar in devotional manner. They chanted, or sang in a low monotonous voice, some dreary, wailing hymn, while the responses were slow, deep toned and weird. The worshipers were typical Spanish-Mexicans, and the altar with its gayly embroidered altar cloth, its tall candles, vases and artificial flowers, very like Catholic churches of more modern date. The young priest, with his small acolytes, added to the picturesque air of the place; ancient pictures on the walls, a few costly golden candlesticks on the altar, made up a quaint, dark, hidden away place of worship in this far-off valley among the hills, and we had attended service in this oldest church of New Mexico.

"The young priest met us outside the door and was charmingly cordial; introducing us as 'friends' to the priests of St. Michael's College, who had been to morning service. This college stands close to the church and is most prosperous and well sustained. The teachers call themselves 'Christian Brethren,' whose schools have long been established all over the world. One handsome young brother urged us to come in and take breakfast with them and see their boys. Catholics send their boys to this college from all parts of New Mexico and Colorado, thinking it a great privilege for them to be taught in the shadow of old San Miguel church. Very intelligent people go long distances with their sick and dying, for service and confession, thinking the spirits of saints of many centuries dwell within San Miguel's sacred walls.

"We took the photograph as a souvenir, and not only the historic, interesting church was preserved, but the very air of the summer morning, the wonderful sunshine, the far-away mountains and the strange people, will forever remain a picture painted on our minds and hearts."

MARGARET SPENCER, East River, Conn.

Rob Reynolds, of Asheville, N. C., writes me an account of a two days' trip in the mountains which shows that he, at least, enjoyed his summer's outing.

Another letter which I must return thanks for but cannot use, is by Miss Deborah S. Bass, of Littleton, N. H. This article is very pleasantly written, and ought to succeed in getting published elsewhere.

Our next letter is upon a subject very interesting to all western farmers, and perhaps easterners will be even more pleased to read of the methods of their western brothers.

"The Kansas farmer looks forward to the maturing of a good corn crop as perhaps the Egyptian does to the overflowing of the Nile, for it is upon this resource that he depends largely for a livelihood. If the weather is favorable he plants his corn as early as the month of March, for early corn matures the best and corn planted in March matures in July. If the farmer has not had much fall plowing done, and is in a hurry to get his corn planted in the spring he lists his ground, which is a much quicker way of preparing it than plowing. A lister takes a row at a time and has two boards which throw the earth both ways, leaving a deep furrow. After listing a cultivator is run through the furrows and then they are ready for the planter. After planting the ground is rolled until it is very level and then the corn is ready for cultivation.

"In June the sun and earth seem to harmonize, and all vegetation grows with startling rapidity. During this period the farmer has no time to swap knives. Everything that looks like a cultivator is put to good use, for corn grows on the jump; it will grow six inches in a single night. About the middle of June it has attained a height and density which shades the ground; the broad green leaves are interlaced and droop almost to the earth. Now care must be taken that the cows do not get into the corn, for if they did hunting them would be like looking for a needle in a haystack.

"In October comes corn-husking time, and from now until after Christmas farmers are in the field early and late. They husk with only one man to a wagon, and use what is called a bump-board on one side to prevent the corn from going over. When a man is husking rapidly at the rate of a dollar a day, with perhaps three ears in the air at a time it is very necessary to have this board. Many times if there is a big production of corn there is a scarcity of crib room; then the corn is piled in great heaps upon the ground. At such times corn is perhaps cheaper than coal, and as a bushel of corn would burn almost as long as a bushel of coal immense quantities are used by the farmers to keep back the frost line."

GEORGE JOHNSON, Burlington, Kansas.

Now we have a description of a storm on the prairie.

"The storm was approaching fast and we hurriedly started for home, the clouds rolling up black and threatening in the northwest, with the wind due east. We felt confident the storm would not strike us while the wind was in that direction, but the clouds were moving fast toward the south. Just one mile of our journey had been passed when a drop of rain struck us. While we sped over the level road I watched the clouds as they piled up higher and higher; then an opposing current of air would separate them a moment, and they would gather together again blacker than ever. The wind was acting queer. The long grass rose and fell like ocean waves, and near us a clump of willows were twining around each other; each leaf and twig seemed to be giving and taking a last embrace. The wind had changed; it was now a race with the storm. The clouds had changed from black to green and all around the edges they were frothed with yellowish white. The green mass was churning and boiling over its entire surface, and now and then casting off its yellowish froth. Gradually they closed in on us, but we had reached home, and from its safe shelter we watched the storm. A house only a quarter of a mile away became invisible; willows and cottonwoods bowed low, even to the ground, and the darkness of late twilight came upon us. No living creature could face the torrents of water that now burst upon us. Sheets upon sheets came down, laying the long, waving grass even with the ground. Limbs were torn from the willows, cottonwoods snapped off midway, seemingly by the weight of the down-pouring waters, for the wind seemed to be silenced by the mighty flood. It all passed in less than half an hour, and again the sun shone and the birds sang; but the dooryard was a lake of water. NEBRASKA.

I wonder how many of my readers have ever heard of or seen the curious lake described in the next letter? I must confess to complete ignorance of its existence, although I have passed several years in Washington, D. C.

"Near Terra Alta in Maryland there is a lake called 'The Unseen Lake.' It is about seven-eighths of a mile in width and about one and one-fourth miles in length. It is completely covered with a kind of sod which is strong enough in some places to bear the weight of a man. It is sometimes called 'Cranberry Lake' because cranberry bushes grow on top of the sod, which is composed of cranberry roots matted together. Fishing has been done by making a hole through the sod with a rail. Nice fish have been caught there."

NEVA SAUER, Marietta, Ohio.

Our next letter needs no introduction from me. Anything connected with Admiral Dewey is eagerly received by all Americans.

"Perhaps the one man in whom the country is most interested to-day is Admiral George Dewey, who was born in this town on Christmas, 1837. Admiral Dewey's father, Dr. J. Y. Dewey, lived in a comfortable house just across the road from the State House, a handsome building of Vermont granite. The house in which Admiral Dewey was born is still standing, but it has been moved from its original site and a new house erected there. In the great Doric portico of the State House, so called because it is built after the Doric style of architecture, there stands a marble statue of Ethan Allen, Vermont's hero in the Revolutionary War. It is proposed now by some of the Admiral's admirers to put a companion statue of Dewey at the other end of this portico.

"The State House stands a good deal higher than the street, and quite a distance back from it. The



STATE HOUSE AT MONTPELIER, VERMONT, SHOWING STATUE OF ETHAN ALLEN.

ground between is laid out rather irregularly in terraces and flights of broad granite steps. People who remember Dewey here when he was a boy tell that one of the plays he was most fond of was to run races with the other boys, from the Capitol down to the street, with their eyes shut, and see who could go the fastest without falling headlong. How surprised he would have been then if he had been told that some day a marble statue of himself might be put up there in the portico, where he was running races."

ALBERT A. PIERCE, Montpelier, Vermont.

If, as the following letter states, egrets' plumes fall out and do not require to be pulled, why does not some enterprising young man or woman start an egret farm? Surely it might be made a paying business.

"Of late years there has been a strong campaign against the decorating of ladies' hats and bonnets with plumes and birds' feathers, and, if report be true, the habit has been dying out; yet, if it had been allowed to continue, it would have led to the founding of a new industry, for egret herons, from which the plumes are taken, can be raised as easily in confinement as fowls or ostriches; while owing to the fact that their plumes fall out every year at the end of the nesting season, there would be no cruelty connected with it.

"My experience with egrets was in the year 1895, when my brother and I secured three white ones from a rookery near our home. The rookery was in a heavy growth of low, broad-branching trees surrounding a small lake. Their nests, which were made of small twigs and stalks, with no padding at all to soften them, were built in the crotches of the trees, six or eight feet from the ground. Each nest contained four light-blue eggs, about the size of a guinea hen's egg. The birds which we took were four or five weeks old, and though unable to fly they gave us a lively chase ere we secured them, scrambling from branch to branch along the tops of the trees, with the agility of monkeys. When we did at last capture them they required careful handling to prevent them from besmearing us with the contents of their crops which they attempted to throw over us.

"On reaching home we placed them in an unused fowl house, and offered them some minnows, which they refused, obliging us to take them one by one and force the food down their throats. In a few days, however, they learned to feed themselves. From the first we uttered a peculiar whistle while feeding them, which they quickly learned to answer and would come hastening from a distance of half a mile on hearing it. As soon as they showed a tendency to fly we clipped their wings, but gave them the run of the place; when we soon found them most useful as insect catchers, they spending most of their time going from plant to plant catching flies and bugs. On approaching a fly they would sway their heads from side to side so rapidly that the eye could scarcely follow, and then, when within an inch or so of the fly would strike with unerring aim. As eaters I have never seen their like. They would eat not only till their crops were full, but until they were full up to the throats,



FEEDING THE EGRETS.

and then would go around for an hour or more with necks stiff with food. It is my belief that an egret can eat two pounds of fish a day.

"At night our egrets would return regularly to their house, and one of their most peculiar traits was their habit of quarreling every evening over possession of the perches. Two or three of them would place themselves at intervals along the perches, and then do their best to keep the others off, although there was plenty of room for all, thrusting at them with their sharp beaks, and uttering their harsh, croaking notes. The others would return the blows with interest, and thus the fight would go on until finally all would succeed in securing places for themselves upon the roosts.

"As summer advanced the egrets began wandering more, and, discovering the river which ran near the place, they went to fishing for themselves, sometimes wandering a mile or more, yet returning every night. With the advent of autumn, however, the migratory instinct was awakened, and they commenced to disappear, and finally one morning a party of tourists, not knowing them to be tame, shot the remnant. We attempted to get others the following spring, intending to be more careful of them, but the rookery had been broken up by plume hunters. We had proved, however, that they could be raised in confinement: they had been interesting pets, and had cost little to keep. They are nearly as good as a watch dog around the place, being very wakeful at night and sounding their resonant cry the moment they hear or see anything unusual."

ARTHUR S. MURPHY, Andota, Florida.

And now my space is full and we must say good-by for another month. AUNT MINERVA.

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Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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BALL FREE. For a club of only three yearly subscribers at 25c. each we will send one of these great Foot Balls free, all charges paid, or send eighty-two cents and we will send the ball and one yearly subscription all charges paid. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

SAMOA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



RISING out of the sunny Pacific, thousands of miles from any continent, is the little group of islands (scarcely more than a few dots on the map) which have, for the last ten years, attracted the attention of the three most powerful nations of the earth. The Samoan Navigator Islands lie about ten degrees south of the equator. Their volcanic peaks rise out of the sea to an altitude of four or five thousand feet, the sloping sides of the mountains covered to the very summits with dense forest and undergrowth. Below on the shore are many little coral bays which gleam and glitter in the fierce light of the sun. Everywhere the shore is fringed with coral reefs upon which the breakers beat and roar, curling and tossing their white spray to the foot of the palm trees, which stand like huge ostrich plumes along the shore.

Over all this the sun shines from a sky of marvelous blue, and with a radiance which, it seems, could never be dimmed; but even while one is thinking thus a few clouds scud across the sky and in the twinkling of an eye the heavens are darkened, the wind sweeps all before it, tearing off the limbs of trees and scattering the cocoanuts; the rain falls in torrents—then blue sky again. One does not mind a drenching in this climate, for in a few moments the sun dries the light clothing and the traveller goes on his way quite oblivious of the moisture but happy to have escaped the missiles which have been hurled from the trees into his path.

The natives of Samoa are not cannibals, or black skinned savages, but a people of light brown complexion, semi civilized and of marked intelligence. Their dress is simplicity itself, being composed of a strip of cloth or "lava-lava," made usually of "tapa" or bark cloth, which is wound about the waist and falls to the knees. The upper part of the body is sometimes protected by a blouse but, in the case of the men, the fine chest and splendid muscle are bare and decorated with strings of red berries and moss and garlands of flowers. The Samoans are extremely fond of flowers and weave most beautiful garlands with which to decorate themselves and their houses. On fete days the natives dress in attire of the brightest hues, their bronzed skin shining with cocoanut oil, and their hair dyed and stiffened, and decorated with flowers and berries and sometimes (oh, happy mortal), a piece of looking glass. The high-bred women appear on these occasions wrapped in innumerable mats of which they are as proud as the American lady is of her real old lace and family jewels. These mats are made of pandanus split very fine and woven together so that the mats are sometimes as soft as fur. They are seldom worn save on great occasions, and then they are wrapped about the body, one over the other until the poor human inside is scarcely visible.

Perhaps the most interesting spectacle to a white man is a native feast. Seated under the thatched roof which forms the house of the native, the floor covered with palm leaves and branches of cocoanut palms the guests range themselves in a large circle while in the center spread out upon banana leaves are the viands. And such a quantity! Dozens of pigs (the Samoan delicacy), roasted on hot stones in the ground, chickens and ducks cooked in a similar fashion, taro root and taro leaves cooked with the milk of the cocoanut, bananas and other tropical fruits and vegetables beside fish, fresh from Samoan waters. Of course the feast is innocent of forks and banana leaves make excellent plates. To close the feast the flowing bowl is passed about. This is filled with the national beverage "kava" which is made from grated root and is offered always for hospitality's sake, much as we should offer a guest a cup of tea.

The Samoans are, like all dwellers in tropical lands, a lazy race, yet when occasion arises, they can work well, especially when employed by the white settlers. Their lack of ambition to acquire wealth may be accounted for by their custom of family privilege of appropriation. No man's goods are his own but belong to his family. If he works for a white settler and is presented with some new clothes, when he goes to visit his relatives and they are

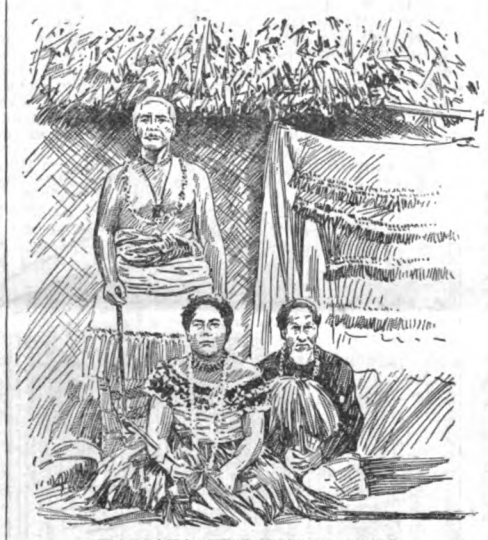


A NATIVE OUTPOST.

pleased with the new trumpery, he would not think of refusing to give it to them if they asked. On the other hand he may take from them anything that pleases him. So it would scarcely be politic to work hard and lay up riches, for they would be immediately appropriated by less industrious relatives. In spite of this, perfect civility always prevails among the natives. Perhaps nowhere can we find so courteous a race. "Tolafa" they say as they pass, and whether you be friend or stranger it is the same, "Tolafa," "Love to you." They are extremely generous, and one has but to admire their most highly-prized possession and it is his. But in return the native expects the same generosity.

When ready for war the Samoan blackens his face and goes through most wonderful gambols and contortions indicating how he will treat his enemies. They use spears and sometimes, nowadays, rifles. Their aim is to capture the heads of their victims and bring them back to camp as mementoes of their prowess. In battles again their courtesy is shown, for even during their fiercest struggles women may go unharmed among them. A Samoan would scorn to harm a woman at anytime.

The Catholic Mission has done much for the natives of Samoa, teaching them, not European



MATAAFA, THE EXILED KING.

habits and customs, but a better way of doing their work, and how to lead more useful lives. Most of them are devout Catholics, and with their naturally lovable and sentimental natures they are easily touched by the form and symbolism of the service. They are very musical and the sacred music taught them in the mission as well as their own native songs are beautifully rendered.

But what have we to do with these natives, living their own lives in the South Sea? Some years ago the United States bought, of the native chiefs, the harbor of Pango-Pango for a coaling station. The interests of Germany and England are chiefly commercial and political.

Samoa is really an important position for it is the only neutral group of islands in the Pacific and it is on the course of all steamers from our Pacific coast to Australia. Each year the Pacific Ocean grows more important and now, since the United States has become interested in the Philippines it is especially important that she should have some control in Samoa. After much difficulty among the whites at Apia, the chief town of Samoa, the Germans siding with one native faction, the English and Americans with another, a treaty became necessary. This was the Treaty of Berlin which gave equal power to the three nations, Germany, England and United States, leaving the natives to rule themselves so far as was compatible with the interests of the signatory powers. Trouble arose between the two factions of the natives concerning the crown. Mataafa, a brave chief who had all the titles of royalty, was set aside and his rival, Malietoa Lanpepa, was upheld by the powers.

For a time Mataafa held the position of viceking but soon he was suspected of plotting and, considered dangerous by the powers, he was exiled to Jaluit, one of the Marshall Islands, a dismal place close to the equator, where he and his companions suffered terribly. In the latter part of 1898 Lanpepa died and Mataafa, returning from his exile, expected to be acknowledged by the powers as king. Judge Chambers of Georgia, Chief Justice of the islands, after carefully studying the history of the royal family decided in favor of Malietoa Tanu, son of the late king. The Germans took the part of Mataafa, though formerly they had been his worst enemy, and fighting was inevitable. Apia was attacked by the rebels and marines were landed from the warships to protect the consulates. The British warship Porpoise and the American cruiser Philadelphia shelled the native villages along the shore and the cause of Mataafa seemed on the wane. The affair will probably be settled by another treaty between the three powers giving more definite directions for the action of the white government in relation to the natives.

A sketch of Samoa would not be complete without mention of the author and poet who spent his last days in the lovely climate and who has made known to us the beauties of the place. Robert Louis Stevenson was the beloved of the natives. His home, Vailima, high on the mountain above Apia, was often visited by deputations from the native chiefs who came to ask of their beloved "Tusitola" (the teller of tales) advice on matters of state. He understood the natives and possessed their complete confidence. He would leave no stone unturned to help them in their troubles and, often, at the expense of the goodwill of white officials, acted as an intermediary for them with the Chief Justice and consuls. At one time several of the chiefs were imprisoned for political reasons and Stevenson did everything in his power to alleviate their sufferings and save them from death by disease. After their release they expressed in a most substantial manner their appreciation of his good offices. They built for him a road to the town, bringing the material often from the shore with much labor, and providing themselves at the same time with food and shelter, so that no expense should fall upon their benefactor. Stevenson named this "The Road of Gratitude," and it will stand for many years, a monument to the beautiful affection which may exist between the Samoan and the white man.

EDIBLE BIRDS' NESTS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WE have all of us heard of bird's-nest soup—that peculiar dish so esteemed by the Chinese. Few of us, however, have any idea of the kind of nest used, or anything about where it is to be found, and how it is collected.

The edible bird's nest is not a mass of sticks, straws, and feathers, plastered together with clay or mud, such as the robin's nest, for instance. The method of their manufacture is unique. The swallow who builds the nest is provided with glands that secrete a peculiar sticky substance which hardens quickly upon exposure to the air. No other bird is so provided, though among insects, as we all know, the spider is so equipped.

These swallows inhabit the cliffs in the Sunda Islands, Ceylon, Borneo, and Java, where the birds inhabit large caves over-looking the sea, and in colonies of countless thousands build their homes and rear their young.

When about to build the nest the bird's glands, which are situated under the tongue, become greatly swollen. The swallow presses its tongue against the rock that is to serve as the foundation of the nest, and then retreats a short distance, in so doing drawing a glutinous thread out of its mouth. This is woven into a bed of web, by dexterous movements of the bird's head, and the operations of spinning and weaving are continued until the nest is of the required size and shape. The completed nest is about the size of a quarter of a hen's egg.

The best quality of nests are white and as translucent as porcelain, and are much prized by Oriental epicures. Another species is of a brown color, but is mixed with bits of sticks, feathers, and other foreign substances which render it almost useless as an article of diet. Probably either species would not prove especially attractive to an American palate.

The natives who gather the nests often live in the larger caves with the swallows. As the openings to these caves are often sixty feet high and between forty and fifty feet wide, it can be seen that the men do not frighten the birds in the least. They do not even seem to mind the loss of their nests, but keep on building year after year in the most contented fashion.

In gathering the nests two men work together. One carries a torch, for the inner recesses of the cave are totally dark, the other is equipped with a long-handled, four-pronged spear. By means of a light bamboo ladder they ascend to the roof of the cave. The man with the spear selects the nest he wants, spears it, and with a slight twist disengages it from the rock whole. He passes it down to his companion, who puts it in a basket at his waist. The nests of the best quality are tied with strips of bamboo into bundles, weighing about a pound and a half each, and containing about forty nests. These bundles are worth about nine dollars each. The poorer grade of nests are nicely strung together, and are not nearly as valuable.

About $2,500 worth of these nests are gathered every year, three crops being taken during the season. Though this occupation of nest-gathering has flourished for over seven generations, or considerably over one hundred years, so numerous are the swallows, and so rapidly do they breed, that there seems to be not the slightest diminution in the number of birds inhabiting these caves.

Should it prove that the English sparrow is any relation to these birds, what a hopeless task is before Bostonians and others who hope to exterminate the pests by destroying their nests!

In the Philippine Islands cock fighting is a popular amusement.

In the Franco-Prussian war pigeons were declared contraband of war.
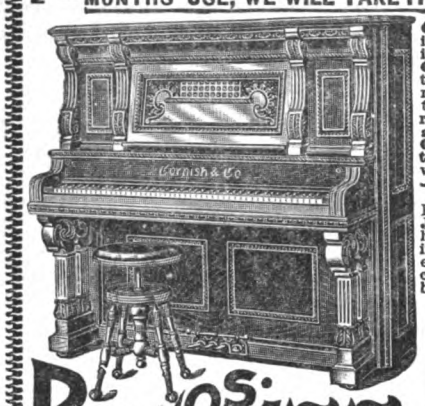
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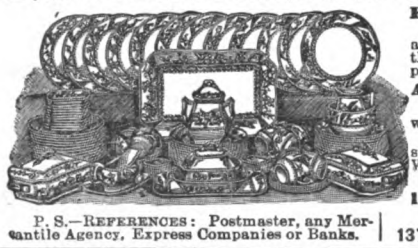
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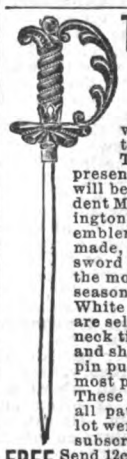
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THE FISH INCUBATOR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TO the chick of the present day, born in an incubator, the old saw, "What is home without a mother," has lost all meaning. He lives quite comfortably without the "cluck, cluck" of the old biddy and has grown quite accustomed to furnace heat instead of the warm feathers of mother hen. In hatching chickens by artificial means many difficulties must be overcome. Now let us see how it is in the case of hatching fish in the hatcheries. Almost all fish are born from eggs and these receive no attention from the mother after they are deposited on the bottom of the brook, so the difficulties to be overcome in this direction are less than in the case of the chickens. Then again one female often lays as many as several thousand eggs, about ninety per cent. of which are destroyed or fail to be fertilized. By artificial incubation not more than four per cent. are lost, so that hatching by artificial means has proved to be far superior to natural courses.

Uncle Sam, with his eye always open to improvement, has carefully noted all these facts, and has taken advantage of them, using every precaution to save the eggs and tend them so carefully that the largest possible proportion shall hatch into fish. All over our country collecting stations and fish hatcheries have been established for the propagation of our native fish. This work is under the management of the United States Fish Commission, which is one of the youngest departments of our government. Cars especially constructed for the purpose carry the eggs and fish from one end of the country to the other, so that it often happens that the eggs of the salmon of California and Oregon are hatched in Maine or vice versa.

That the waters of the United States may become well stocked with fine fish the Commission is very generous to individuals, and anyone who has a pond of proper size and in good condition may, upon application, have it stocked with fish from the fish farms of Uncle Sam, free of expense. Thus the fish used for food are well distributed and sport is promoted in all parts of the country. The angler need have no fear that the brooks and lakes of our sporting areas will become "fished out" while the government is so generous with its fresh supplies of fish.

The land-locked salmon are the fish most popular among sportsmen and much is done toward their increase at the fish hatcheries. About November they begin to spawn and, if allowed their freedom, the female seeks the shallow streams where she deposits her eggs upon the gravelly bottom of the brook. She is followed by the male who spreads upon the eggs the soft roe or milt, which fertilizes them or rather some of them, for by the natural method the milt fails to reach a large per cent. of the eggs and they are lost. It is for this reason that nature has made such a bountiful provision of eggs from each female trout, and man now takes advantage of this provision to fill his rivers with these dainty fish. In the hatcheries the female fish, when she tries to escape from the lake, is trapped and placed in a large tank or pound, from which she can be taken in a landing net. She is then stripped of her eggs. An expert, holding the fish by the tail, determines whether it is ripe for delivery; then holding it over a pan he presses the body gently until the eggs drop out, often to the number of eight or ten thousand. The fish is then returned, unharmed to the lake. The milt is taken from the male in a similar way and is thoroughly mixed with the eggs, so that every healthy egg is fertilized and yields a fish. The eggs of the salmon are at first not more than a quarter of an inch in diameter, but then afterward they soak up much water and increase in size. They are now placed on large frames through which a stream of water is constantly passing. In this condition they appear like a great mass of glass beads ready to be strung. For about three months the eggs remain on the frames. They require no nourishment but plenty of fresh air and water.

When the tiny fish first emerges from the egg he is nourished by the little sac of the egg which is still attached to him, but when he begins to develop fins and swim about like a true fish he must be fed with soft meat. When six months old the fish are called "fishlings" and in this state many of them are transported from their birthplace to other lakes in far off states. They are taken up in landing nets and placed in large cans, about one hundred to a can, and these are fastened securely in the Fish Commission car. The only requisite for the journey is plenty of cool air and this is obtained in part by dipping the water out and letting it fall again. This work is done more effectively, however, by an air pump, which is constantly pumping the air into the cans through rubber tubes with minute openings at the ends, through which the air enters the water without causing disturbance, and giving perfect aeration. Food for the salmon is unnecessary for they can live a week or more without apparently suffering for want of it.

The fishlings, when taken from the lakes for transportation are not more than six inches long, but under right conditions they will grow at the rate of a pound a year until they are the delight of the sportsman.

It has been estimated that at one hatching over two million fish can be propagated in a single year. Of course these cannot be accommodated in one lake and so they are distributed at an early age, to other lakes and ponds and streams.

The future of this good work of our government is most promising. The food supply of our country is being greatly increased and sport is being promoted not only along those streams and lakes which have always been famous for trout, but in new and formerly unattractive regions. Then again the fishing is immensely improved by the introduction of fish not native to the region in which they are hatched, and by the general interchange of kind and quality.

Bank Accounts For Children.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TO do the very best thing possible for your child, in a material way," said a wise father, "is to start him with a ten dollar savings bank account when he is one day old." The writer knows of several instances in which this advice has been followed or anticipated and the results have been uniformly gratifying. Let me recount one case.

Arthur Lane had ten dollars deposited to his credit the day he was born, in a savings bank paying four per cent. interest, compounding semi-annually. At the same time he was guaranteed by his parents an allowance of ten cents per week up to his tenth year, twenty-five cents per week from his tenth to his sixteenth year, and one dollar per week from his twenty-first year. Up to his sixth year this allowance was deposited to his credit entire. Then, the nature and value of a bank account having been explained to him, he was encouraged to voluntarily save and deposit as much of his allowance per week as he felt inclined to, in view of the advantages to accrue therefrom. On each birthday, beginning with the second, two dollars were deposited for him as a birthday gift. In addition to these increments, he was urged to earn and deposit for himself such sums as an active boy may without detriment to school work or wholesome recreation. When Arthur was twenty-one years old he found that he had enough money in the bank to take him to college and pay most of his expenses there for two years. He kept on earning and saving during his college life—adding to his bank account as well as subtracting from it, and finally graduated without having called upon his father for a single penny. The lesson in practical economics was worth more to him than a gift of the same amount of money could possibly have been. He had learned the value of money—how to make it, how to save it, and how to use it—and all this at such an infinitesimal and wisely distributed cost to his parents that although in straitened circumstances for a time the financial drain was scarcely perceptible to them.

The wisdom of making boys and girls their own bankers is sustained by so many practical considerations that I wonder the custom is not universal among provident and thrifty parents. Start your children off with ten dollars apiece and you will be amazed to see how their bank accounts will grow. Interest subtly adds itself to principal, and the sum total goes on rolling up and increasing in an astonishing ratio. And it will not be long before your boys and girls will catch the spirit of the enterprise and add their efforts to its furthering with a wholesome pride and enthusiasm. One does not realize how much money actually passes through the average child's hands, until a tally is kept of it by some such method as this. Let the allowances and gifts and earnings, that otherwise would melt away immediately and without perceptible results—unless, perhaps, of a disagreeable nature—be registered, at least in part, by a savings bank account under the child's own management, and in the course of a few years they will represent an amount which is as surprising as it is encouraging.

Some one may object that bank accounts for boys and girls would develop in them an undue and perhaps corrupting love of money. At first glance there might seem to be some plausibility in this objection. But maturer reflection, backed by practical results, will refute it. Depositing money in a savings bank is not like hoarding it in a miserly way. It is an investment. The laws of financial growth and use apply to it. It is also subject to the risks and fluctuations of all working capital. The whole process is educative, stimulating and broadening to the mind. It is no more morally injurious for a child to watch and control, in his small way, the productive forces of the business world, than to watch and control the productive forces of nature in making a garden. It is an enterprise that is entirely normal, legitimate and instructive—something vital, to which a young person must come sooner or later, in the constitution of things, and which he is advantaged by knowing something about at an early period in his education.

Then too, wise parents in teaching their children the value of money will impress upon them from the outset the fact that money *in itself* is worthless. Its wonderful power is manifested only when it is used as a medium of exchange. We save it to use it, and to use it in the best and most effective ways, if we save it rightly.

Practical results also show that children are not made miserly or even avaricious by the management of small bank accounts of their own. They are made economical and careful about the use of money, but they do not forget that its final and essential function is to be *used*. Nearly every child with a bank account has some definite and cherished object in view, some wise and often far-reaching purpose for which he or she is saving. And, in the end, the money is invariably applied to a good use, something that furthers the young person's success in life.

If parents and friends in making presents to children would only, instead of giving perishable knicknacks and toys give the value of such things in money, and encourage the little people to put it where it will grow and amount to something of real, solid benefit by and by, how much better off all of us—excepting the toy dealers—would be! But if that is asking too much self-denial of the children, why not educate them into foregoing a toy now and then by giving them the money such things would cost and letting them choose between the sorry wreck of former indulgences and the glory of so much more credit at the bank?

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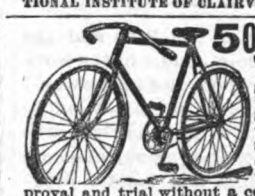
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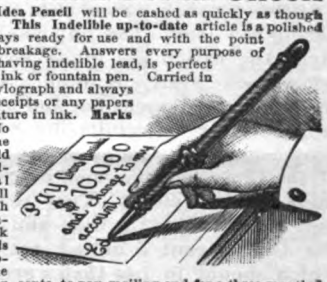
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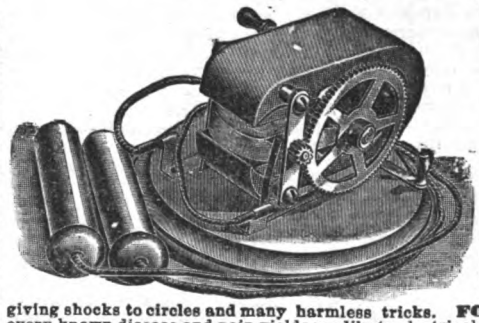
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The National Reunion of the Blue and the Gray occurs at Indianapolis, Ind., in the early part of this month. Nowhere else in the world can such a scene be witnessed as this friendly meeting of the survivers of a great civil conflict. It always carries with it an object lesson on the sterling good sense and candid judgment of the American people. The nation as a real living entity did not exist until the national spirit rose from the hundred battle grounds of the Blue and the Gray. The sins of these men have opened a future to the nation—a future through whose vista only the most daring can look. The numbers of those who made the nation one, grow fewer and fewer with each yearly reunion. This common interest in the present war and common heirships in the great results of our latest victims show more closely than ever before to the men of the Blue and the men of the Gray what their conflict meant. They rejoice together that the victory of the Blue and the defeat of the Gray meant a united nation—a nation which should in less than a generation carry the national emblem in triumph around the world.

When "Society" with its capital "S" takes seriously to any sport, sensible discussion of the matter is at an end until "Society" takes its frantic seriousness in some other direction. The bicycle had its brief whirl and then the social columns ignored its existence. Golf and automobiles have been the social fad of the summer of 1899. Indications seem to point to the conclusion that the automobiles would "arrive" as a business convenience before they became a fashionable fad. For the last few years frequenters of Broadway have been familiar with the sight of the horseless carriage standing forlorn and empty at the curbstone. Rarely was it seen in motion and more rarely with an occupant. This summer it was hard to find one of these vehicles and those curious to know what an "automobile" ride was like frequently had to postpone a gratification of their curiosity. The world of fashion began to purchase "automobiles." It is an expensive luxury—this new fad of the fashionable, and as such may enjoy a longer vogue than the wheel. The gulf between one thousand dollars and one hundred dollars may insure a corresponding ratio in the length of time that fashionable interest will be directed towards the new method of locomotion. In time this interest will subside and automobile parties will be a thing of the past. The trip being made across the continent will demonstrate the practical use of this new wagon of the day. The man and his wife who started from New York to spend their summer on this trip, have awakened much interest along their entire route. Automobiles are still excluded from the park drives in most of our large cities. There is a great artistic opportunity for a change in the construction of these vehicles. At present they are ugly and ungainly. There is none of the "smartness" of a fashionable turnout discernible in these heavy-wheeled, abbreviated-looking affairs. If Fashion during the brief sunshine of her fever can change the shape of automobiles into a thing of beauty they may become a "joy forever," as they certainly will become a necessity.

One of the most hopeful signs of the last few years is the lavish festival of wealth in philanthropic and altruistic schemes. Schools, colleges and libraries are forwarded and endowed on every hand. It is an age of vast fortunes but it is an age in which individual responsibility seems to have developed in a high degree. Andrew Carnegie is a striking example of the responsibility of wealth. That a man should retire from business at the height of success is still something of an anomaly in America but that he should avow a purpose of devoting his life to the wise distributions of his wealth is an anomaly in any age or time. He is only one of many who are spending time, brain power and effort in the endeavor to make their wealth of great benefit to the world. The greater part of the benefit is however reaped by the cities. In the great centers of population opportunities for education and enjoyment are at the disposal of all. In a great measure this is an unfair distribution of pleasure. There are hundreds of people in the rural districts fairly hungering and thirsting for the opportunity to hear good music, to see good pictures, to read good books. No millionaire has yet devised a scheme to brighten the monotony of these lives that are lived far from the great centers. Some states have made efforts along the lines of a traveling library and traveling exhibitions of prints and reproductions of great pictures, but while this work has met with appreciation and co-operation from the public whom it designs to benefit, the work has hardly begun. A well-organized system by means of which a few really fine paintings might be exhibited free of charge in all the rural districts would unfold a new world to many. It has been said that we look at Nature in an entirely different manner after we have seen it reproduced on the canvas of a great artist. We begin to look for tints and shades that we never saw before but that the artist's eye has caught. Nature takes a new meaning when we search for the beauties that only trained eyes have seen. Why should the libraries, the gymnasiums and the lectures be provided only for the dwellers in great cities? There are plans to enrich and beautify life in the city; these should be extended to the country.

The failure of the legislatures of Pennsylvania, Utah, California and Delaware to elect United States Senators has caused some serious complications and many discussions as to the interpretation of the Constitution on this point. The power of the governor to fill such vacancies by appointment is seriously questioned. Such dead locks are only possible when the state legislature has the power to appoint. It was the idea of the makers of the Constitution that the United States Senate should represent the states as units. This unity and sovereignty of the states would be better upheld by men owing their power to the law-making body of their several states. The election by State Legislation was the result. There have been many discussions of the wisdom of amending the Constitution in this point and such political broils as these cases of non-election of senators but emphasize the necessity for a change. It is a relation of the right of a state to leave it unrepresented in the councils of the nation and especially so at a transition period like that of the present. On the other hand the most critical students of the Constitution believe that it provides no lawful method of disposing of cases like the ones cited—in other words that the governor of the state has no power to appoint in such cases. The simple remedy that would prevent any such occurrences in the future is a constitutional amendment throwing the choice of United States Senators directly upon the voters of the state. The opportunity for political "deals" and double dealing would be materially lessened by such a method. The most marked feature of governmental development since 1789 has been the strengthening of the legislative branches of the government and the endeavor to make these bodies reflect the sentiments of the people. Under this development the English House of Lords has become of little governmental importance. Our Senate would more truly reflect the people of the state if elected by them directly instead of indirectly through the legislature. The people should rebuke the political chicanery that leaves them without a legal voice in the Senate of the United States, and they should rebuke by taking into their own hands the delegated power to select men to represent the state.

The American nation has reason to feel proud of its great naval victories. From the time that John Paul Jones, with his unseaworthy *Bon Homme Richard*, snatched victory from two British ships down to the July day when Cervera's torn and dismantled fleet lay on the rocks of Cuba, the American navy has had victories by sea far in advance of its expectation or expenditure of money. Now we mean to have a navy that will be fitting our rank as a nation. Much discussion has been aroused as to the proper naming of this new navy. About ten years ago Secretary of the Navy Tracy adopted a certain plan for naming our ships which up to that time had been christened in a haphazard manner. He proposed to name battleships after states, cruisers after our great cities, armored coast defenders after celebrated events in our history, and torpedo boats after naval heroes. This seemed like some kind of an orderly arrangement but the recent violation of it by naming four coast defenders after the states of Connecticut, Arkansas, Florida and Wyoming, has provoked much unfavorable comment in those states. The technical distinction between the importance of ships is one not understood by the people at large. The most obvious thing about a ship is size and when we find the boat named for the state of Texas really smaller than the one named for the borough of Brooklyn, the comment of the Texas people is not pleasant to hear. It is certain that some recognized system of naming should be adopted but it is exceedingly doubtful if any patriotic advantage is gained by giving local names to national ships. It is not municipal or state pride that we wish to foster but national pride. Give the names of great victories like Saratoga, Yorktown, etc., to the ships, give the names of men prominent in our military history or of great statesmen. If geographical names must be used adopt some of the native Indian names like Cherokee, Seminole, Iroquois, Seneca, Cayuga, or the like. The names of our cities are not American names. New York was the title of the Duke of York, Boston and Newark are from English towns of that name. Cincinnati in a sense is American as it was named after the Society of the Cincinnatus, but its origin is in Roman history. The names of a large number of our states are of European origin. Let us have names that will serve as a guide to the rank of the ship and at the same time as an object lesson that the American people have a history that they are proud to commemorate.

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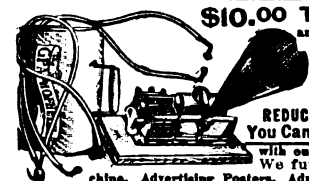


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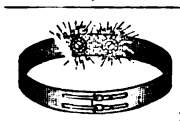


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187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
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41	Crack Four March	Ashton
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121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
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155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasalde
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
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139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missud
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45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
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125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
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175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
33	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
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189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
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95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Symons
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109	Sultan's Band March	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
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223	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
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205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
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203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
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59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
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140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
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134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
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226	Blue Eyes	Elson
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotere
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
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214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
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92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
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50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
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19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
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188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
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98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
148	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
93	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
108	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain	Dinsmore
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
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148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cooke
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138	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
45	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasaide
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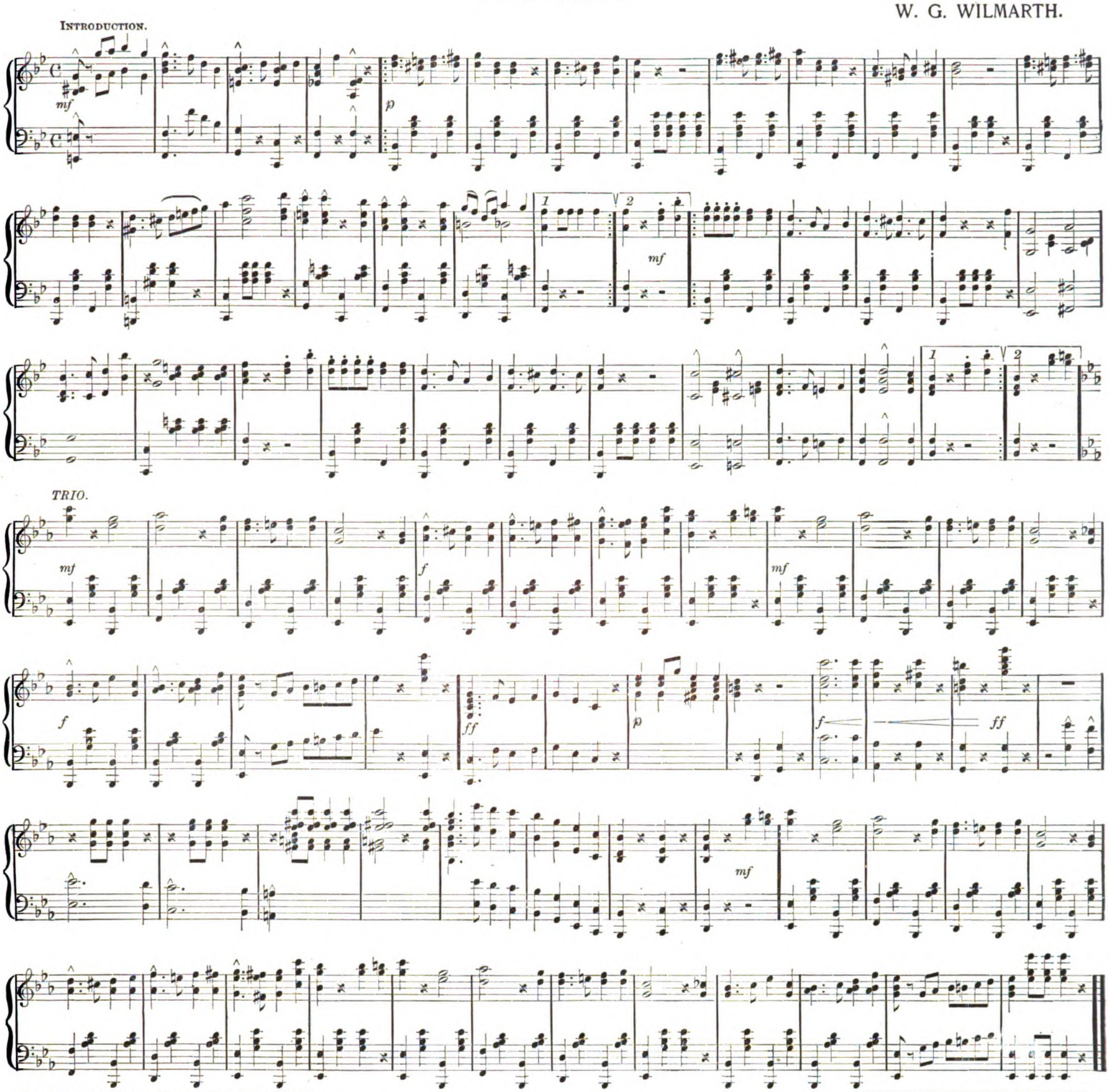
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OLD DOMINION.

TWO STEP.

W. G. WILMARTH.



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F. H. GILSON COMPANY, MUSIC TYPOGRAPHERS, BOSTON, U. S. A.

The Popularity of the Two-Step.

Music dealers everywhere are much interested to watch the gradual forcing out of the waltz by the popular two-step and publishers assert that only about two-thirds as much waltz music is now sold as was a year ago. When the two-step was first introduced as a dance it was met with decided disfavor by waltzers and dancers generally, who sneered at the idea of a dance which could be picked up by any one in half an hour ever being considered popular. Another class of people frowned upon it on account of the rompish character of the dance and regretted that what they were pleased to call an undignified scramble should be successful. Also much opposed were dancing-masters who had labored long and faithfully to perfect dancers in intricate steps and figures. Notwithstanding all of this opposition the two-step has been popular with dancers from the start and the swing, rhythm and exercise are well in keeping with the modern idea that women should have and enjoy exercise and sports as well as men. The day has gone by when it is fashionable or proper form for a woman to pose as an invalid or without sufficient strength for good wholesome pleasure and exercise. Another thing that has made the two-step so popular has been the general catchiness of the music, especially those composed by Sousa and the host of followers. So many of these two-steps have been brought before the public that one that commands immediate attention has to be of extra great merit. The Old Dominion which is published above is a remarkably fine and swinging example of the music of this popular dance, as will be seen by every reader who looks over the score. It is a piece that without being up to Sousa's great masterpieces in this line, is a piece that will attract immediate attention and grows upon the player or hearer every time it is repeated. It is a very creditable piece and worthy of high praise.

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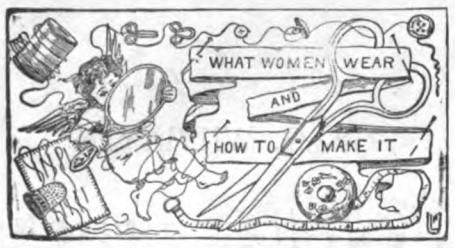
COMFORT has often pointed out the great revolution which has taken place in the music world within a few years. Even our youngest readers can easily remember when the only sheet music to be had came from the music stores, while once in a while could be obtained at a fairly low price a poorly-printed collection of well-worn relics in the musical line. The idea of getting real sheet music at low prices never seems to have received much attention until recently, although books and paper were cheaper and wonderful printing presses had been designed that brought the art down to speed and accuracy never before dreamed of, and at a minimum cost. Finally COMFORT took up the idea of first-class music being printed by modern methods. The result was as might have been expected, the idea was opposed and belittled by the very ones whom it was designed to benefit. So accustomed had people become to paying monopoly prices that for some time little headway was made. Pretty soon it became noised abroad that the best of sheet music was being offered by COMFORT for a trifle, although people were before paying fifty cents to one dollar for exactly the same thing. Now the price has been lowered everywhere and while none pretend to meet COMFORT in its generous offer, but few dare to suggest former prices for sheet music. If you or any friend want the best of sheet music read our music offer on another page; but do not think of paying music-store prices until you have tried our offer once. If everything is not as presented we will return every cent it has cost you. The most difficult thing is to convince those who have not seen the music that it is all we say; and yet every day brings such letters as Lucia Robbins, Box 44, Waverly, Mo., sends. She writes: "I received the music and it is all right and just as you advertise. Am very well pleased with it. I have thought the same music at higher price was cheap; but I never struck such a sale as this." Nor is this any more emphatic than just a word from Miss Stella Beag, Mentor, Minn. "The music I received is very nice. I should have had to pay from twenty-five cents to half a dollar a sheet here." Do as we suggest and make one trial of our offer.

Commenting on the large sums that are now paid to the best opera singers, the profession generally feels that Henry Abbey and Henry Jarrett are largely responsible for it, as they both have been instrumental in this material recognition of vocal merit. Jarrett gave Christine Nilsson, the famous "Swedish Nightingale" $1000 a night to sing at Drury Lane theater in London, whereupon Patti's sum went up to $2000 a night for her performances in Convent Garden. Not satisfied with this large advance over all previous records she stipulated for and received $5000 a night in her next American tour. But speaking of large salaries for musical performances leads COMFORT to note that in both of these cases the vocalists have been aided by other artists and the accessories that go to make up the modern opera company. Now the record is really broken by the pianist, Ignace Paderewski, who many of our readers have heard give his marvelous performances on the piano. Alone and unaided he often makes $5000 for a single evening and on one occasion cleared $7000 for his performances on the afternoon and evening of one day. Cartoonists may amuse themselves and others with their caricatures of this artist but we reverently take off our hat to any man who is able to do this.

Abroad where music receives general recognition and aid as an art it is not an unusual sight to see a monument erected to some living or deceased artist or composer. In Italy a beautiful one has been erected by the general government to the memory of Guiseppe Gabetti. He was the director of the military music of the Piedmontese Infantry bands and composed for them a march which has become as famous as it is popular. The King was so pleased with this particular composition that he ordered it to be used perpetually in greeting any member of the royal family in public, the same as "Hail to the Chief" is used in this country as a greeting to the President or other high officials. On account of this incident Gabetti's March is now known as "The King's March" and is used whenever there is any public appearance of the King, though its use for other members of the family has been gradually dropped in favor of the head of the house, for whom it is now played exclusively.

An Opportunity Not to be Lost.

Sheet music at about cost of mailing ought to interest every person who pays the old-time prices to music dealers. The opportunity to obtain sheet music practically for the postage is given in COMFORT'S music offer in this number. It is a chance music-buyers should not lose.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE fashion of wearing a coat or a blouse made of a different color and material to the skirt is decidedly economical, as it costs very little to produce a smart-looking costume in this way. Lace revers and collars in an endless variety of designs help to make a coat or jacket look very stylish. The lace could be mounted onto a piece of ivory satin or any color that matches the lining foundation would look very smart.

All the newest skirts continue to be tight-fitting round the hips but vary in width at the hem. The best shape for ordinary wear measures a little over three and one-quarter yards in circumference, and is certainly the most perfect hanging skirt that has ever been introduced. It is a particularly easy style for the amateur to make, as there are no small gores to be added on at the hem, for each piece is within the width of ordinary double-width material.

An especially stylish skirt has the regular gores divided into two sections, each section outlined with a narrow beading of jet, ending with an ornament running into a deep scallop connecting each gore around the foot which has a decided flare. This is extremely modish when made up in taffeta or liberty satin.

Double skirts are very popular, but very different from the ordinary idea of a double skirt. The upper skirt being within a few inches as long as the underskirt. All skirts ripple around the feet; indeed in the present "pull-back" fashion, walking would be seriously interfered with were this not so. The shops are showing very beautiful skirts for dressy wear having a long, trailing foundation of soft, pliant satin, with a fall of chiffon covering it, and finished with pleatings of the thin stuff at the edge, and over all the outer skirt of Brussels net thickly sewn with jet sequins interspersed with quillings of net. They are all very long, clinging, and trailing, and accompanying them are patterns for the bodice to be made according to the taste of the purchaser. This goes to show how much importance is given the skirt of this season; far exceeding that of the bodice.



Well, I have just been looking at the most bewildering lot of fall and winter millinery it ever fell to the lot of mortal to see, and right here in our own New York. You would decide at once you must be in Paris, that no such splendid collection of exquisite creations could have originated elsewhere; but I am proud to see that we can do something over here, and with a little encouragement may yet be acknowledged as leaders. Of course a great deal depends upon the face beneath the hat and I happened fortunately to see the daintiest sort of a pretty girl pose in each and every one of these, more tantalizing in every one. Not only are these hats which are to be our leading modes, gorgeous and daring, but unusually practical. Many of them are after the fashion of the turkish turban, the material velvet, panne silk, or soft felt cloth arranged in thick folds in a low flat fashion, in which grebe breasts and ospreys are introduced with fine effect. Fur is elaborately applied to the most costly hats; mink, otter and chinchilla being the most popular, as well as the most becoming. All shades of pink are lavishly used and are wonderfully effective. I saw such a sweet hat of black velvet, with a rather high crown, and perfectly straight brim, the top heavy with black birds and soft paradise plumes, while under the brim was draped a beautiful shade of soft pink satin ribbon ending in a full bow at the left of the back, to fall over the hair. Purples and grays are very much in vogue, while the newest of the new is the vivid claret red so many of the new hats are made of. It is immensely becoming to a clear-skinned brunette. A certain brownish shade of crushed strawberry is also to the fore, and combines effectively with jet. Turquoise blue and castor is a favorite combination while any and every combination shows a tower of black. Some of the fanciful black hats, enormous things, show one scarf end of tulle or lace to wind about the throat.



Everything in millinery is enormously heavy, trimmings heaped on without rhyme or reason, seemingly.

Very little radical change is seen in jackets or coats. Sleeves are snug, and bodies are short, especially so over the hips, very often longer at the back and front, and more often longer in the front than any place. Slanting double-breasts are much worn, the usual width being retained at the top, while a single button closes it in the center at the bottom. All edges and corners, in fact, every possible point is scalloped. There are no square edges. Open fronted coats and short-waisted jackets are still the very height of fashion, and all of them are shaped into the figure at back. The introduction of a side piece to an Eton is a great improvement, and permits of the shape being more generally adopted, as in its old form an Eton jacket was very unsuitable for many figures.

The sketch selected sets forth a novel gown in soft wool in palest violet made over an underskirt of black satin set in circular ruffles, while flat bands of the satin intersected with lace ornament the bodice. The overdress, which has much the effect of a princess is brought tight to the figure by means of small tucks, ending in a point at the bottom to give the needed flare.

Two pretty ideas for the school girls are shown. One being a frock of royal blue wool, with fine corded tucks and knife pleating by way of trimming, and the other a smart little surplice bodice, with a satin collar effect at the back.

A MEXICAN MEAL.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN the Bible we read of "two women grinding at the mill," but that was in Palestine, two thousand years ago, and in the light of our modern machinery we scarcely comprehend just what it was that those women were doing. But if we go to Mexico today, we will comprehend, for we will see not only two, but thousands of women grinding at the mill just as did those of Bible times, the only difference being, that instead of the wheaten loaf, they will be preparing to bake the *tortilla*, a thin cake made from Indian corn, without yeast.

First softening the corn by soaking it in water, the women spread it out on a flat stone, called a *matate*, and with another stone shaped like a rolling pin, crush it into a paste. When this paste or dough is of the proper consistency, it is patted by hands that are not necessarily clean into thin cakes, and baked to a rubber-like inpermeability on another flat stone.

In the meantime, the ever-present *frijole* (bean) has been simmering in a pot, and is now ready for eating. A formal announcement that dinner is served is not necessary, for the men of the family are lounging about not far away, smoking cigarettes, and the lifting of the pot from the fire is the signal for all to gather about it.

Each person takes a tortilla, and deftly moulding it into the form of a rude plate, fills it with beans from the pot, using another tortilla doubled into the form of a scoop. Then transferring the beans by means of the scoop from his plate to his mouth, he complacently eats his meal. When he has about satisfied his hunger, he eats first the scoop, then the plate, and if he be fastidious, uses another tortilla for a napkin, and then that also is eaten. Thus it is seen that neither linen nor dishes are left for the women to wash—a slight recompense for their labor at the mill.

Three times a day, from time immemorial, this has been the bill of fare of the poorer Mexicans. Plain and unvaried fare, you say. Yes, but there are those, still poorer, to whom it is a luxury, it being said of them, that they eat the beans of the mesquite (a small tree) raw, for breakfast, drink water for dinner, and allow the resultant swelling of the beans to take the place of supper.



ESPECIALLY STYLISH.



HOW many women know why they wear their wedding ring on the third finger of the left hand? The Egyptians believed that that particular finger was connected by a slender nerve with the heart itself. The worshippers of Isis held this finger sacred to Apollo and the sun, for which reason gold was the metal chosen for the ring. The first authentic reference to finger rings occurs in the Old Testament, where the signet-ring of Judah is mentioned. Rings were originally used more for practical purposes than for ornament. They were used for sealing.

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1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
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1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
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1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
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1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
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Possibilities of a Cheap Trip to the Paris Exposition.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE is a *possibility*—but not a *probability* that one can go to the Paris Exposition on a small amount of money. Whatever the trip would cost you this year it is safe to say that the rates will be doubled for 1900. Indeed, the French people expect to make a fortune off the Americans during their coming carnival.

In conversation with a number of the keepers of *Pensions*, they distinctly stated their rates would be doubled, so that if a schedule of rates now is quoted, it will give the reader some idea of the coming year.

In the Latin Quarter, which has its center around the Jardin de Luxembourg, a room for two people can be had from forty francs ($8.00) up, per month, and if one gets one's meals at the restaurants, a good average is two francs (forty cents) a meal. This is much the preferable way to live, for you can have your meals where you are sight-seeing and not have to return to your boarding house. Besides, the Continental breakfast, which consists of a bowl of abominable coffee or chocolate and a roll, is not sufficient nourishment for a tourist.

If you choose to live in a *Pension* or boarding house you can obtain accommodation now, from thirty-five francs ($7.00) upward. This way of living has so many drawbacks that in the end it costs as much as living in an apartment. The food is scant and has to be supplemented every day from your other funds, and if you lose a meal nothing is deducted, but if you have a friend to dine you are charged extra.

The Latin Quarter is the center for American Art students and you can readily find apartments where both English and French are spoken. It is the cheap quarter too, so that if you choose to live nearer the Exposition grounds or in the more aristocratic section of the great city, even now the rates are much higher.

But your living is a small part of your expense. The "tip" or "pour boire" is paid for *everything*. It amounts to a tenth of every bill except the cab fare. This is one and five-tenths francs (thirty cents) and the pour boire is twenty-five centimes (five cents). This wretched system has been recognized by law and you *must* pay, no matter how unjust or how unnecessary it may seem to you.

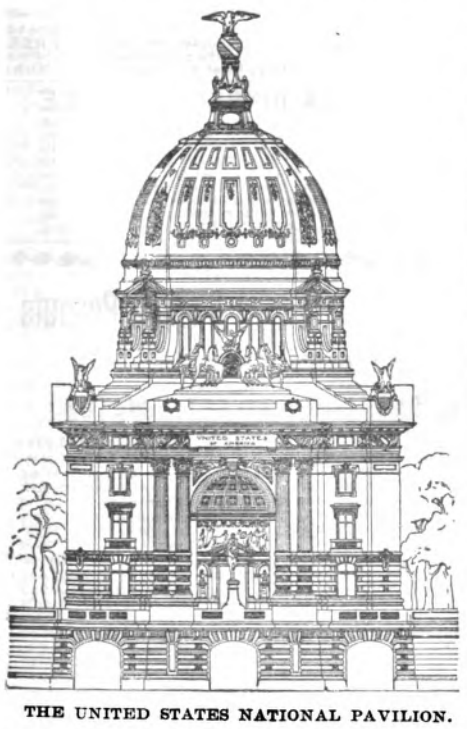
If you intend to go to the Paris Exposition in a cheap way, begin to get ready now. Learn to write some French even though you can't speak the language. Obtain some French money and learn to count it, and make change rapidly. Join the great Cycling Club of France. By all means take a wheel. It will cost a little something but nothing to compare to cab fares, and you will have a method of conveyance when you most need it. It is said there are twenty thousand cabs in Paris, but we could never get one of the twenty thousand after any great affair or even on Sunday afternoon. Have your wheel painted some distinguishing color with some marks or hieroglyphics known to yourself, so that when you check it you will be sure to have *your own* wheel returned to you.

The same spirit that makes a Frenchman take a "tip" when he has rendered no service makes it a pleasure to him to exchange a fine, beautiful American wheel for a clumsy European affair.

Take a passport, a circular letter of credit, and, if possible, a circular Consular letter issued by the Department of State in Washington. Write now to the American Consul in Paris asking him to send you copies of newspapers printed in English in Paris, and from these you will get many addresses and ideas of expense.

As a matter of course you will send a fee to pay for obtaining the papers and to remunerate him for the services rendered. There is no set fee, I believe, but do not be niggardly about this, for all you can learn in advance saves both energy, money, and time after you arrive.

If you have any friends who can introduce and vouch for you to "The Women's Rest Tour Association," 264 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass., you can get great help from them. This is an organization of cultivated women and in no way a money-making institution. It is, therefore, conservative, and rightly so, but once within its charmed environment the cockle shell it presents to you is an open sesame to everything you want to know of travel.



THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL PAVILION.

As to the money question in its totality. When you arrive in Paris you will need now at the very least five dollars a day. During the Exposition double your allowance. With reasonable precaution you can carry what you will need during a short stay. When you buy anything and receive change in return, *take your time* in counting it over. Do not pick up a single piece until you have made a mental calculation. You may if you choose, put your index finger on the money to separate it so you may the more easily count it, but don't take up a single piece until you are sure you have been properly paid.

If you speak a little French do not be disconcerted by the rapid reply that will be given you in an unintelligible manner. Simply say in French, "Speak more slowly, if you please." You may have to say this several times and if you do so, at the same time displaying a copper, you can in the end get good information spoken slowly enough for you to catch every word.

Do not go in large parties "personally" conducted. It is easier for two to make the trip than one, and you can in most instances economize by having three in the party. Do not go in one of the large fashionable vessels, but choose a small vessel carrying only second and third class passengers. They take a little more time, but as there is generally a literary class of people on board, the trip is made very agreeable. And as a rule the salt air is very beneficial.

COMFORT has had in mind when offering this superficial information, the great body of teachers, preachers, and the cultured classes of small means, who have thought they would like to go to the Exposition, but who have not as yet crystallized any plans.

To see Paris is a privilege, for there is a prodigality of beautiful things, and the historical associations give material for a lifetime of study. And no one can know what patriotic feelings are aroused or how deep the love of one's own country is, until he has crossed the Atlantic; comparing the life of the great mass of the people with the every-day life of an American citizen makes one know how sweet it is to live under the flag that stands for Liberty. And every day you thank God for being an American and every day you pray for the privilege of returning to the greatest country in the world—the United States of America.

The United States National Pavilion at the Paris Exposition is 100 feet high, the style of the exterior is classic and is a marked contrast to the French buildings, which are not so architectural in treatment. It is situated on Quay d' Orsay, one of the best locations on the grounds. The plan is square, with a large central dome and rotunda. There are rooms on three sides, opening out of the rotunda, one for ladies, one for gentlemen and one for both. On the second story is a room where people may rest and register, if they so desire, and the third story is given up for the offices of the commissioner-general and his staff. The fourth floor will be used as is the second.

There will be two electric American elevators, and in the centre arch of the portico will be a statue of Washington, while a bust of President McKinley will occupy a niche over the door.

$10,000 has been appropriated as a fund for the mural decorations and artistic treatment of the interior of the building, and it is the intention of the art commission to employ the best American artists upon this work, and to make it the finest example of decorative art which the United States has ever produced at any exposition.

HOW ONE CHURCH WAS BUILT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE city of Chihuahua, Mexico, is noted for two things in particular, viz:—The wondrously rich Santa Eulalia Silver mine, and the magnificent church of San Francisco, more commonly known as the Chihuahua Cathedral.

The mine was discovered some three hundred years ago, in the early days of the Spanish occupation of the country, and although it has been worked continuously ever since, there is as yet no indication that its huge body of ore will ever be exhausted.

The building of the famous church began about a hundred years after the discovery of the Santa Eulalia, and the richness of the mine is testified to by the fact that the cost of the church, $800,000, was realized during the time occupied by its construction from a small tax placed upon the product of the mine.

"But even with such a mine behind the enterprise, how on earth did they manage to erect such a building without machinery for hoisting the ponderous stones?" you involuntarily ask, gazing upward at the massive stone walls of the church edifice.

If you are addressing a native of Chihuahua, he will tell you that he cannot say positively how it was done, that the building was completed a little before his time—along in 1789, just about the time the Constitution of the United States was adopted. But he will add that there is a legend to the effect that the stones were carried up to their places on the backs of *burros* (donkeys.)

"Burros!" you exclaim, incredulously. "Why burros cannot climb ladders, even without loads, and how else could they get up so high?" And you have displayed your ignorance of Mexican ingenuity.

"As the legend runs," your informant will go on to say, "the stones were brought from the quarry on the backs of burros, and lifted thence directly to their places in the building. But bye and bye the walls grew so high this could no longer be done, so earth was brought and banked about the walls, making a gentle incline up which the animals ascended to the desired height. And as the walls continued to grow, more earth was brought, the burros mounting higher day by day, until the last stone was in position and the church completed."

"But what became of the huge heap of earth that must then have surrounded the church?" you ask, gazing upward at the lofty towers.

"*Quien sabe?* (literally, who knows?)" your informant replies, with a shrug; "the legend does not say, but as it is not there now, I presume it was carried away."

THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.

Cost in single copies at least 40 cents each; but we have a book of one hundred and fifty-six popular songs sentimental, pathetic and comic with words and music complete which we will send to any friend who will send six cents to pay mailing expenses and our illustrated catalogue of latest bargains.

S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N.Y.

PAT'D QUAKER FOLDING VAPOR BATH CABINET



Folded.

526,000 SOLD. Every home should have one for bathing purposes. It opens the millions of pores, forces out the poisons which cause disease. **Makes you clean, vigorous and healthy.** Prevents disease. Provides Turkish, hot air and medicated baths at home, 3c. each. **Beautifies complexion.** Recommended by best physicians. **Without drugs it cures bad colds, rheumatism, lagrippe, neuralgia, obesity, female ills, all blood, skin, nerve and kidney troubles. Guaranteed. Our new 1900 Style has a door, a self-supporting frame,** best material, rubber-lined. Folds small. Weight 5 lbs. Price complete $5.00. Write us. **Valuable book, etc., free. Agents wanted, men and women, $100.00 a month and expenses.** Address **B. WORLD MFG. CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.**

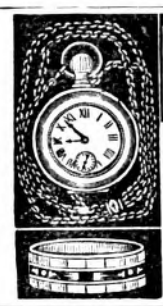
We recommend the above firm as reliable.—Editor.

SELLING DIRECT TO CONSUMERS SINCE '77. **No Trust. No Watered Stock. No Advance.** Blades are hand forged from RAZOR STEEL, file tested and warranted. This cut is exact size of 75-cent knife. To start you we will send one for 48c.; 5 for $2, postpaid. Best 7-inch shears, 60c. This knife and shears $1.00, postpaid. Pruning, 75c.; budding, 35c.; grafting, 25c. Pruning shears 75c. Hollow ground razor with strop, by mail, $1.33; regular price, $2. Send for 80-page free list and "How to Use a razor."



Maher & Grosh Co., 71 A STREET, TOLEDO, OHIO.

FREE COMBINATION OFFER NO MONEY WANTED





From your own pocket. **Ladies, Boys and Girls,** send us your full address **plainly written,** and we will mail you without delay, **25 Pads of our Sweet, Fragrant and Exquisite Perfume** to sell among your friends at 10 cts. each. When sold remit us **$2.50** and we will send you, postpaid, for your work **all of the premium Articles represented and illustrated in this advertisement,** as follows—A handsome **Nickel Silver Watch** and **Long Opera Chain** attached; also a lovely engraved Latest Style **Silver Plated Nethersole Bracelet,** and a beautiful Ladies' **Gold Plated Neck Chain** with **heart charm,** (now all the rage), together with an elegantly engraved **Gold Shell Band Ring,** provided you sell Perfume and make returns within **30 days.** This is a bona fide offer, made in good faith to **honest** people who will hustle to dispose of our Perfume. You run no risk, as we take back all unsold goods. Premium Circulars with each consignment which explain all. **Order 25 Perfume Pads at once and address, AMERICAN TRUST CONCERN, 200 Trust Bldg., Bridgewater, Conn.**



$2.75 BOX RAIN COAT

A Regular $5.00 WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH for $2.75

Send no Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your HEIGHT and WEIGHT, state number of inches around body at Breast taken over vest under coat close up under arms, and we will send you this coat by express C.O.D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00, pay the express agent our special offer price, $2.75, and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is latest 1899 style, made from heavy waterproof, tan color, genuine Davis Covert Cloth; extra long, double breasted, Sager velvet collar, fancy plaid lining, waterproof sewed, strapped and cemented seams, suitable for either rain or overcoat, and guaranteed greatest value ever offered by us or any other house. For Free Cloth Samples of Men's Mackintoshes upto $5.00, and Made-to-Measure Suits and Overcoats at from $5.00 to $10.00, write for Free Book No. 80 B. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

A DOLLAR RING FREE! AGENTS: We give every man or woman a Solid Gold-laid Solitaire Bolivian Carbon Diamond Gem Ring, which we will buy back for $5.00 if not as represented. It is solid gold pattern and unsurpassed for beauty, brilliancy and durability. We give it free for disposing of 20 cases of Perfumery among your friends at 5 cents a case. Simply send name and address and we will mail perfumery postpaid on consignment. When sold send money and we will mail ring which few can tell from genuine $75 diamond, or keep half the cash. We take perfumery back if you cannot sell. Address: P. P. CO., P. O. Box 180, New York.

KOIN MONEY.

It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.



The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware. **Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surface.** It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

A Bargain Offer to All. We want 20,000 agents to sell these cloths at fairs, campaign meetings, on the street, from house to house, everywhere. You can make $100 a month profit, young and old, both sexes. Sells like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 10 cents for agents' prices and a paid three month's trial subscription to our charming family paper. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will return money if not perfectly satisfied.

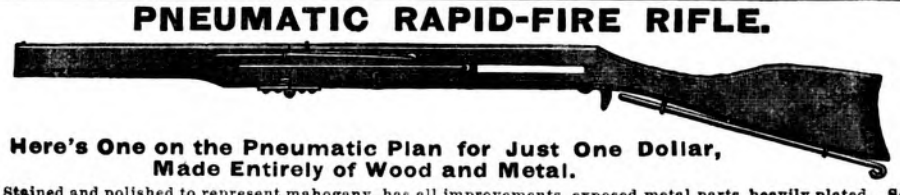
SUNSHINE, Box 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.



TEA SET FREE

56 PIECES. Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 56 piece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. **AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. E, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.**

PNEUMATIC RAPID-FIRE RIFLE.



Here's One on the Pneumatic Plan for Just One Dollar, Made Entirely of Wood and Metal.

Stained and polished to represent mahogany, has all improvements, exposed metal parts, heavily plated. Same size as regular Carbine. Is designed for shot, which can be bought for a trifling expense anywhere. Works on the pneumatic spring scientific plan. Loads at Breech. Shoots with accuracy. Has the force and precision of any magazine gun. Can be used with perfect safety by men, women and children. No horrible accidents by careless handling. Kills birds and small game. Just right for hunting where silence is wanted. Brass tubes, air chamber, and heavy metal springs. Endorsed by officers of the Army and Navy as the best mechanical rifle ever produced. Used on practice ships in place of regular magazine rifles. Boys are delighted with it and prefer it to a larger gun. Can be kept in your room to protect the household if you dislike to have firearms around. Absolutely no danger. Perfect workmanship guaranteed in each gun. We will send this paper a year and this rifle complete and sent carefully packed for $1.00.

SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!



Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by Oxien the triumph of medicine, the Godsend of the age. Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien is making them every day.** In this connection

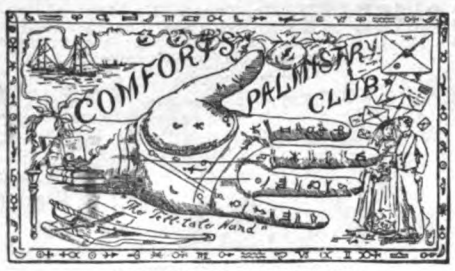
WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton. Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. FREE. This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

I AM gratified to see how great an interest is taken in this department, and am always glad to receive letters from the readers of this corner, although it is not possible to give personal answers to them all. Answers to questions about palmistry, however, will always be given in this department when desired, so that students of this science need not hesitate to send them in. There are several questions this month. Remember that in asking questions that can be answered here, you are helping other students as well, for the answers are of interest to all who take an interest in the subject. One reader of COMFORT says:

"I send a question regarding the marriage line this month, and if the answer is as helpful and inspiring to others as many of the questions and answers have been to me, I shall be very glad." And she adds: "It is all interesting but the questions and answers, are in my estimation, the best for learners."

It is "Effie" who asks, and she wants to know if the marriage line coming to or on the life line must always come from the inside? Opinions differ about this, I notice among leading palmists; the balance, however, seem to have decided that the marriage line must come from the inside or the side of the life line towards the thumb. It should be about one sixteenth of an inch from the life line and should not branch off. If it does shoot off away from the life line after a little that shows that there will be an estrangement between the parties at the age indicated on the life line. The marriage line may be long or short, the length indicating the term of years the marriage lasts. It should not cut the life line; if it does it denotes disappointment. The same rules apply to the marriage line following the fate line. The line indicating marriage under the little finger is the first marriage line, but this does not always count unless it is seconded by one either on the life or the fate line. When the marriage line under the little finger droops at the inner end towards the heart line it is a sign that the subject will live longer than his or her partner. If it is much broken up the subject will not be liable to marry; if he does the marriage will be unhappy. If the marriage line runs down on the mount of Mercury, crossing the heart and fate lines and striking over to the mount of Venus, it means divorce; if there is an island on this line, disgrace or scandal. The marriage line ending in a cross means unhappiness.



GENUINE.

"Aggere" has probably noticed that her hands were read in the August number. I have repeatedly stated that it is necessarily several months after the hands are received here that readings appear.

It is useless for young men to write to me requesting addresses of the young ladies whose hands appear in COMFORT. This is not a matrimonial bureau.

Another club member writes to say that he has discovered a good way to "fix" impressions of hands. He pours a little alcohol into a flat dish (like a jelly tin for instance), and draws the paper impression rapidly through it, drains carefully and hangs it up to dry. The alcohol can be saved for another time.

"Genuine" sends a very good impression of her hands, which indicate a person of great refinement and sensitiveness. She is practical and sensible and will always receive a good deal of attention from the opposite sex. She has several love affairs and will be engaged twice before she is married. She will always receive a good deal of opposition from her people against the men she goes with, and she will marry without their full approval. She will be left a widow before she is forty-five. She has a long life before her and on the whole, it will be a successful one, though she has some troubles of a domestic nature. She will be preserved from their most evil effects, however, and her circumstances will improve steadily as long as she lives. She will be well off in old age. Her life will be far more peaceful after she has passed middle life. She has a great deal of talent and might excel as a musician or an artist, although she lacks somewhat in perseverance or rather the ability for close application to business which is necessary to success in anything. She will travel a good deal in the latter part of her life and die in this country at a ripe old age. She will live to be ninety or a hundred. If she will overcome her tendency to over sensitiveness she will live a happy life and a useful one.

"W. H. S. Jr." has a very lucky hand also. The impressions he sends denote a clear business head and shrewdness; strong common sense, a good disposition and a long, fortunate life. He is capable of carrying on several kinds of business at once and will make a success of them all. He has that peculiar turn of mind that can oversee several things at a time and not err in judgment. He will make an excellent husband, but marriage is far from being the principal interest in life to him, and he is not over fond of the opposite sex; I mean so that he will be foolish or make mistakes on account of it. He will be thought a good deal of in the town where he lives and will hold many public offices. He will enter the political field by and by and will rise as high as he cares to. In fact a hand like this indicates that its owner can do pretty much anything he undertakes to. He will live to be very old, without much sickness. There will be but one serious affair of the heart, though in this matter as in other things he can do pretty much as he pleases, as he will be much respected and sought after, especially in middle life, by women. There is no bad luck apparent, and "W. H. S. Jr." has every reason to be congratulated.



W. H. S. JR.

"Lygia" sends impressions that are badly spotted, but I will do the best I can with them. She has a highly nervous temperament as indicated by the multiplicity of fine lines in the hand. She would also have an irritable disposition, but I think has it under control, as she has a good deal of native strength of character. There are many trials in her early life, many of which come from the opposition of friends to her desires and ambitions. She will have a good deal of poor health, but has a strong constitution to bear it; and she will live to be an old woman if she passes safely a long period of ill health from fifty to sixty or thereabouts. She has a reverent, religious temperament and has a great deal of native ability as a speaker or writer, which she would do well with if it is properly cultivated and trained. The marriage lines are blotted in both hands, but I judge that she will marry rather young and will lead a happy life, if she does not allow a tendency to jealousy to get the upper hands of her. She will be moderately successful in what she undertakes, and would do well as a business woman or as a teacher. She will be popular with the opposite sex and have many friends. This hand, I imagine, belongs to a young person; I ask her friends to wait until she is thirty or so before passing judgment either on this reading or on her; as she will change and develop much before she arrives at that age.

Once more it becomes necessary to call attention to the rules and conditions for reading of hands. I am in receipt of the following letter:

"I send my hand. I also send five cents to pay for the paper one month. I expect to see the reading of my hand in print. Let me have it either in the July or August number. (The letter was dated July 17.) I shall be very much disappointed if I do not see it."

Now, it ought not to be necessary to repeat every month that such letters go into the waste basket; but they do. The rules for hand-reading are plainly printed at the head of this department. No impressions that do not comply in every item with the conditions will appear in this paper. Cut out the rules and keep them.

Digitus

MUSIC GIVEN AWAY.

One hundred and twenty-five Favorite Song Jewels. A large book of music containing words and score of the latest popular songs sung in the theaters and churches everywhere. Comic, Sentimental, Pathetic and Religious. This great collection would cost from $15 to $20 in the usual sheet music form. The best collection for home and concert use ever published. We will give the book as a FREE present to any person sending us six cents in stamps for a trial three months' subscription to our sparkling, monthly paper which we are introducing into 100,000 new homes this season.

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

In the year 1899 there will be five eclipses; three of the sun and two of the moon.

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket-book. 1,500,000 boxes sold. 400,000 cases cured. Buy NO-TO-BAC from your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, $1, usually cures; 3 boxes, $2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money.

NO-TO-BAC

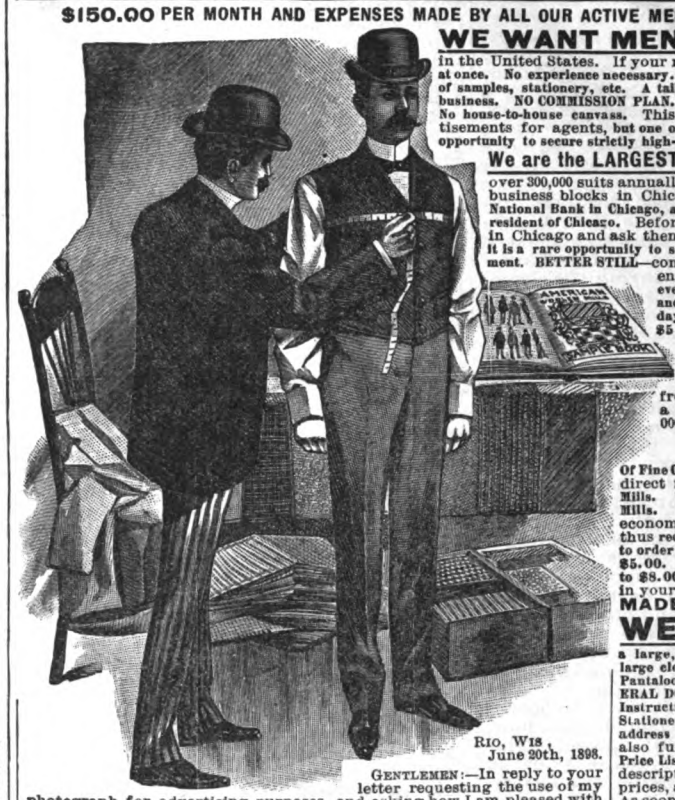
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50 LBS BEST GRANULATED $1.00

We Sell 50 lbs. GRANULATED SUGAR $1. with other groceries and all merchandise at lowest wholesale prices. SEND NO MONEY, but enclose 7 two-ct. stamps for catalogue quoting 50 lbs. best granulated sugar for $1.00 and a thousand other bargains. References: All Chicago Banks and Express Companies. "AGENTS WANTED." Address C. STRICKLER & CO., CHICAGO.

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$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



RIO, WIS., June 20th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph, as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than $80.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as $350.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.

Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 2c stamp for reply.
We have hundreds of letters similar to Mr. Doyle's.

WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY

in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

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WE FURNISH YOU

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THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

..... Sign your name on above line.

..... Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age .....

Married or single .....

Address your letters plainly to

..... On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

..... On above line give name of your nearest express office.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

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LOOK YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS GRAND OFFER. **A Magnificent Solid Gold-Plated Initial Bracelet or Ring** Our Rings are all set with a carefully selected Ruby or Emerald Stone, mounted in a Tiffany setting. The Bracelets are in the latest style, popular Curb Link; the lock and key being exquisitely engraved. They present a beautiful appearance and will wear a lifetime. Over 100,000 young ladies are now wearing our rings and bracelets. We guarantee everything just as we advertise. **Just send us your name and address** (letter or postal), that's all. **We will send you 10 large handsome stamped doilies,** ready for embroidering (Carnations, Roses, Chrysanthemums, Pansies, Holly). Each pattern a prize-selected design. Sell these to your friends at 10c, each, send us the one dollar collected and we will promptly send you the bracelet with **your initial engraved** on it, *or* a ring; take your choice. **Our reliability is established.** We refer to the publisher of this paper or to any National Bank in this city. *Write sure to-day* for the doilies; your success is certain; sell at sight and wanted in every home. (Write to Dep't 50,) **STERLING JEWELRY CO., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.** **FREE**

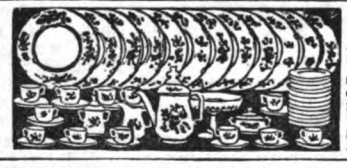
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To Form Part of the **Treat or Refreshments** at party gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our **special process** of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate.

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Address, COMFORT FOOD DEP'T C, Augusta, Maine.

Stories About the Lynx.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE French settlers in Canada early encountered a wild animal about as large as a setter dog, except that the body is thicker from side to side, and the tail only four or five inches long, seeming little more than a tuft of hair. Though the creature stands no higher than an average setter, his legs are longer, but very crooked at the joints, and also very much larger. His head is rounded like a cat's, but is more flattened; and his muzzle is a little longer, but similarly whiskered. His short ears stand straight up their apparent height being increased by a tuft of long stiff hairs—which, I suppose, protects them from the severe cold of the regions which the beast inhabits. He has coarse, thick fur, with much long hair, but which is not quite sufficient for shagginess. The color is a brownish gray, with darker cloudings.

This animal is the Canada lynx, called by the French Canadians *loup cervier* (lucivea) because it was found to destroy deer and caribou. It does this by dropping on their backs from some large, low branch under which the prey passes. Its long, sharp, curving claws enable the lynx to maintain its hold on its victim while it bites its long tearing teeth deep into the poor creature's throat.

The beasts of prey which the French peasant knew in his native country were the bear and wolf (*loup*); and as this new world animal, like the wolf, killed deer (*cervier*), it was given the name of *loup cervier* or deer-wolf.

The usual prey of the lynx is the grouse and smaller animals, especially the hare, or rabbit. In pioneer settlements they were less destructive to the flocks than wolves only because they are less bold, from their habit of hunting singly.

One April a few years ago, in approaching Bangor in the middle of the State of Maine, from the Kennebec region, by steam car, I observed a flock of sheep feeding on the sweet, freshly springing grass on a hillside. They were scattered in large and small groups, and among them were many lambs. As the train ran angularly toward one end of the hill, I saw a large *loup cervier* spring out of a clump of bushes a little distance from the train and run in long leaps over the further end of the slope toward the woods. He had been waiting there to spring upon a lamb when any should wander near enough; but the roar of the train and the tremor it caused in the ground, had given the beast a great fright.

As the train passed on I saw, near the other side of the hill, in the yard of a house, a large dog. The nearness of this guardian of the farm accounted for the caution of the lynx in attacking the flock. The Canada lynx, though there are few dogs it could not overcome, is not apt to attack them unless cornered or hungry or in defense of its young.

While calling at a farmhouse in a sparsely settled district in the central part of Maine a few winters ago, a fat old dog of medium size nosed about me in a friendly manner. Nodding at him, the farmer remarked "Old Bruce had a tussle with a lucivea the other night right here by the house."

Several of the family, it was then related, heard the dog bark violently, and as though in a great fright,—very different from his usual defiant, threatening utterance. There was a shifting in the location of the sound, as though the dog was retreating, not toward the partially open woodshed where his bed was, but towards the high doorsteps of the porch. Then there was a fierce scream or yowl, much like that of a cat, but surely from a creature many times larger. Then was heard a violent scratching of the house door, evidently by the dog, which was at the same time yelping and howling. Next the voices of both animals were mingled in a wild tumult of fierce snarls and growls, followed by the more defiant barking of the dog, which seemed to be slowly moving toward the road. Then came another snarling yowl from further away.

All this occurred within three minutes; so that when the boys were sufficiently awakened to get up and look out of the window there was nothing to be seen but the dog, coming in from the road, often halting and looking back, growling angrily.

In the morning there was found, a little way along the road, an uncommon kind of track leading into the woods. The prints in the snow were as wide as a man's fist would make, and much longer. There was no doubt as to what beast made them. The hinder feet of the lynx have but four claws, while the fore-feet have five.

Being of such size, and such a distance apart, especially when the animal moves by leaps, the farmer boys, when these tracks are reported in the neighborhood, are very good about coming home before dark.

At another farmhouse where I spent several hours one day in the spring, I learned that the dozen-year-old boy had, a few days before, come home in great breathlessness and excitement from a pasture where he had been sent to make some slight repairs in a fence beside the woods.

By his account, his little dog was nosing about for squirrels in the woods near by, when a fierce, snarling cat-like yell was heard; and the dog came out of the woods as fast as he could run, with his tail curled down between his legs. Only the volume of sound in the strange cry was much greater than could have been made by the largest domestic cat ever known; and, hearing a slight sound of dry twigs crackling, the boy followed his dog as fast as his legs would carry him.

It has been said that the lynx is generally shy of buildings, but I remember hearing of some trout fishermen who had lost their way and being overtaken by a shower, and who found shelter in a ruinous old barn far away from any dwelling, where they had refreshing repose on the scattered hay, until near morning when they were awakened by stealthy footsteps about them. As they rose all together, there were three of them, the animal ran up a post and mounted a large beam. On this he extended himself closely with his paws partly on the sides; where he looked down upon them with glaring eyes.

The fishermen were without gun or pistol, but had large pocket knives, and they soon provided themselves with clubs. It was not yet daylight and so early that they preferred another nap to turning out in the wet; so they gathered a few stones and knots by feeling about along the barn sills, which they flung at the beast in a continuous volley that brought from him a series of snarls and yells and meows, until he finally jumped down from his perch and fled from the building.

I knew an old farmer who, when he was a young man, went to his barn early one winter morning to feed the cattle. At the moment of entering he caught a glimpse of a bob-cat (bay-lynx) as it ran to a large hen-hole in the same side of the barn, which had been inadvertently left open. The farmer instantly sprang forward and seized the intruder by the hind legs, trying to break the beast's back while it was wedged in the hole. But the back was too tough and the big cat was drawn in, which placed his captor in a very difficult position. Yet, unwilling and not daring to let the fierce marauder go, he whirled swiftly round and round, beating the beast's head against posts and cart wheels until his struggles ceased. Then he dropped a dead bob-cat on the floor and sat down himself, exhausted and dizzy, and tried to count the scratches.

A few miles from the locality of the last catastrophe another farmer (widely known since he grew old as Uncle Nat) had a very unusual form of encounter with a bay-lynx. While walking through the woods his attention was attracted by a wonderfully large nest in a thick topped, rough-barked tree of the kind called pumpkin-pine. It was probably a crow's which had been added to in each of many years of use. He climbed up and found the nest contained four very young bob-cats. As he took up one it uttered a loud, snarling, mewing cry, which was instantly answered from the woods. In a few seconds the parent appeared coming towards the tree in long leaps striking—Uncle Nat asserted—twenty feet up the trunk.

Uncle Nat always admits that he was frightened. There he was at least forty feet above the ground, and maintaining his position with difficulty. It was death to let go, and worse to hold on, for he had no kind of weapon, not even a knife, and was but thinly clothed. Almost instinctively he seized one of the little bob-cats and threw it out among the branches. As it went shrieking down the old lynx turned and ran down the tree, hunted up the half-stunned young one and carried it away out of sight. This took but a few moments when she was back, running up the tree again. All the prisoner could do was to fling out another of the little lynxes, and the cat went down the tree again. The process was repeated the third time, also.

Uncle Nat had now learned the proper tactics for fighting a bob-cat, and when she was on the tree again he flung the fourth and last of the young ones as far away as he possibly could. When the lynx went down the tree he followed her at a speed that knocked fragments of bark from the tree and from his own body, and tore big holes in his garments. The instant he reached the ground he struck out for home through the bushy woods at the liveliest gait he ever made.

There was a state bounty for killing lynx at the time, but Uncle Nat never went back to count up the dead ones in the vicinity of that old pumpkin-pine.



ALL the inhabitants of Sonneberg, which is in the interior of Germany, make dolls for a living. Twenty-five millions of dozens of dolls are produced every year by these people, of whom there are twelve thousand in the business. It takes eighty persons to make one doll. The labor is divided as much as possible and each worker makes one thing only. Children are employed in painting the nails on the dolls' fingers, also in stuffing the bodies with sawdust, hay or chopped straw. The wigs are made in Munich and the eyes come from a small town just outside Sonneberg. The most expert of the men paint the cheeks, eyebrows and lashes of the dolls. In exporting, many things have to be taken into consideration; for instance, a doll with rubber joints cannot be sent on a sea voyage, for on her arrival she would be armless and legless. Wax dolls are not sent to very hot or very cold countries, as in the former they would melt and in the latter they would crack.

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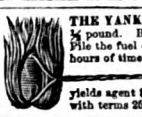
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE receipt of a postal card from E. A. Sayer of Deatsville, Ky., requesting information regarding the lattice-work jacket which was illustrated in this department not long ago, makes it necessary for us to state that we cannot go into the full particulars in these columns; we can tell her that it takes two pieces of the narrowest black velvet for the front and back of jacket, and sleeves; that the velvet is put on about two inches apart. If people want detailed information about articles which we have already described minutely, as well as illustrated, they should at least enclose postage for a reply to their inquiry, for we cannot take the space twice for the same article, in these columns. We endeavor to so explain articles that it will be perfectly clear to any one with an average amount of brains just how they are made—but if we fail to do so, we gladly give further information if postage is sent for that purpose, by writing further particulars.

I attended a wedding anniversary, a short time ago, at which there were about twenty-five people. Now this number is a hard one to entertain, for there are too many for cards, and the evening seems long when there is absolutely nothing to do but talk. So the hostess arranged beforehand some large sheets of heavy brown paper, upon which were pasted pictures of noted people, with numbers under each picture. There were 63 in all, and the guests were given sheets of paper and pencils and were then turned loose among these pictures—the object being to write down on the paper, with the number, the names of as many of the pictured people as possible, the one having the largest number right to receive a prize. I was fortunate enough to receive first prize, having guessed correctly 56 out of a possible 63. I had a number of other names right but had the numbers attached to those names wrong, so of course those names did not count. Now there are quantities of people whose pictures we have seen, in newspapers, books, shop windows, and yet when one sees such a lot of faces to be guessed upon, one's brain seems to work backward, or refuses altogether to work, and one is continually getting the wrong name for faces. But if plenty of time is taken and one goes the round of the rooms in which the pictures are hung several times, each time leaving unanswered those numbers of which one is not perfectly sure, it will be found that as one gets accustomed to it accurate guesses may be made in almost all cases. The great difficulty is when the pictures are poor prints, and sometimes it happens that one knows that two pictures are respectively Cotton Mather and Oliver Cromwell, and yet the pictures are so poor that it is a toss up as to which is which. No one could possibly fail to name all of the portraits given in our illustration, as our artist has been very faithful in his reproduction; but a hostess isn't always so considerate, when arranging a set of pictures, for the very reason that it is the more puzzling and interesting if people have to keep guessing, only to finally guess *wrong*.



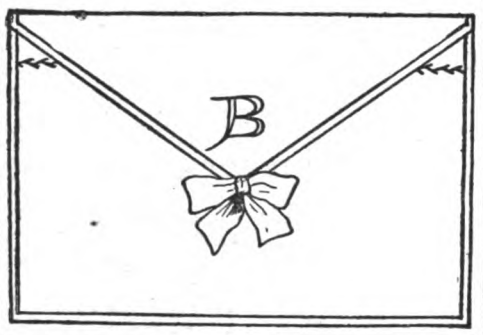
FOR A PICTURE PARTY.

Of course the guessers do not consult together—that is, they are *supposed* not to—though it is almost impossible not to occasionally hear some one name pictures as they recognize them. When all have taken all the time they care for, the hostess reads from a list the numbers and the names of all the pictures, and each guesser marks on his own list in such a way that he can count up, when the reading is finished, the number of correct guesses he has made, whereupon the one who has made the largest number of correct guesses walks off with the cake, or whatever the prize may chance to be. It is good fun to have booby prizes, also, for the least number of correct guesses. There is usually a first and booby prize for ladies and gentlemen.

One of the trials of the mother who goes visiting with a small baby is the care of the diapers. I recently saw a case for these which was so simple to make, and which answered the purpose so admirably, that I want to describe it for the benefit of such mothers.

The case was made from dark gray linen, and required a piece sixteen inches wide and about one and one-half yards in length. Cut one piece one yard long; nine inches from one end fold the edges so that they shall slant to a point, and cut off the corners thus folded over. Turn a hem two inches deep on the opposite end, so that it shall come upon the front when folded up like a pocket, and catch the hem in place with a row of rather coarse feather stitching done in red Asiatic floss. Lay a piece of white rubber cloth, sixteen inches wide and twenty-five inches long upon the linen, rubber side out, and baste a strip of red dress braid along the two ends. Catch this through rubber and linen with featherstitch also of the red floss. Now turn up the end of the linen and rubber to just below where the upper end has been slanted toward the point; that is to the upper edge of the rubber. This will form a pocket, and the whole piece will be in much the form of an envelope. Now add another piece of linen over this pocket to form a second. First turn the hem on one end as directed before, finishing with feather stitching in the red Asiatic floss. Baste the different parts together and then bind all around the edge with the red braid. This will hold the pockets together at their sides, and will give a nice finish. As it now stands the case has two pockets the full width of the linen, the inner one of rubber and the outer one of linen. The inner pocket is of course for wet diapers that have to be carried, and the outer one for dry diapers.

The case will be made more attractive and given a nicer finish if a large initial is worked in the point of the flap, using for this either



the Asiatic filo or the Roman floss in red, to match the binding and featherstitching. To keep the case closed, take three-fourths of a yard of red ribbon, divide it, and sew half on the point and the other half where the point touches the front of the case. This is to be tied into a bow, and altogether the case is a very nice looking as well as serviceable affair.

Baby's underclothes should be of the softest wool, and loose enough for comfort. Use woven wool shirts instead of linen ones. Let his cradle covers be the lightest, downiest ones you can make or buy. In cold weather the little feet should be looked after. Holding them to the fire until they are thoroughly warmed will often cure a spell of crossness and crying. Provide warm woolen socks for them, and if that is not enough wrap them in flannel. Cold feet, exposure to sudden changes of temperature or draughts of cold air, are almost sure to result in an attack of colic. Keep the room in which he stays as nearly 70 degrees Fahrenheit all the time as possible. If the baby wakens fretful and out of sorts, it is either unwell, or hasn't had its nap out. There is one thing that few people seem to realize, and that is arranging the child's clothes with a view to ease, and giving it plenty of room.

The perfect shoe has not yet been evolved for infants. The ideal shoe should conform as nearly as possible to the shape of the foot, and be neither too loose nor too tight. In particular, it should be amply wide across the great-toe joint, and allow the toes room to spread out, instead of being pressed together. Mothers should see that the baby's shoe is correct in this respect, and that it is also long enough to extend slightly beyond the toes in order to allow freedom of motion and room for growth.

Having secured these essential points she can probably do little more toward attaining the perfect shoe until the shoemaker has reformed his views regarding the shape of a baby's foot. The sole of a baby's bare foot is not unlike a wedge in shape, the broad part being at the toes, while the shoe meant for his use is too often either narrower at the toes than at the heel, or else of about equal width.



We illustrate a little receptacle for needles, thread, scissors and thimble, also boot buttons and safety pins, to be used when traveling. It is made in the shape of the linen bags so often used in the place of a leather hand bag, and is made of brown linen, about six inches in length. Three pieces of the linen are necessary to make one, one about six inches square, and rounded on one side—and two round pieces for the ends. All these pieces are bound with braid and then sewn together and embroidered, if desired. A strip of linen is made and embroidered for the handle, and when completed it is filled with a paper of needles, some black silk, black linen thread, white thread, a card of boot buttons, some safety pins and an aluminum thimble; a pair of scissors is a sensible thing to add, if space allows. The end which laps over should have a small buttonhole in it, and a small pearl button should be sewn on where it will do the most good. Such a little receptacle should always be kept filled and ready to be dropped into the hand bag when one is to start on a journey; it is equally good for men, as for women, for accidents happen to men, and they all know how to thread and handle needles and threads—though few of them ever resort to the use of a thimble.

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FELLOW-TRAVELERS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A GENTLEMAN and little girl were walking slowly down the path leading from Chattahoochee to River Junction. On all sides was a lavish display of tropical foliage and bloom, and the little girl's attention seemed divided between running from one point to another and listening to the mocking birds singing along the path.

"I say papa! everything is so beautiful," she said, as she paused beside a large clump of mountain azaleas.

The gentleman smiled and looked at her fondly.

"I hope my little girl will always see beauty in everything," he said.

Suddenly, as they turned a bend in the path, a quaint, boyish figure presented itself. He was possibly twelve or fourteen years of age, and walked with the slow, slouching gait of one weary with long travel. A crooked stick over one shoulder held a small bundle, and the sallow, freckled face was half concealed by the broad, flapping brim of a felt hat. A rope around the waist held his trousers in place, while a flannel shirt and pair of heavy, oversize boots completed his outfit.

He was about to pass by without looking up when the voice of the gentleman caused him to pause.

"Do you live in the neighborhood?"

"No," then after a moment's hesitation, "I'm jes' travelin'."

Something in the weary, hopeless tone caused the gentleman to look at him more closely. Then he said, genially:

"Good! we are fellow-travelers, then. Suppose we sit down for a few moments, if you are not in a hurry. Gertie and I are like you—just traveling. We stop and start whenever we feel the inclination, and we are fond of making new acquaintances, especially on such a morning as this. Suppose we open the lunch basket, little girl. I confess my thoughts have a tendency that way."

He spoke easily and led the way toward a large, flat rock, and the boy, after a brief hesitation, slowly followed. But his face was flushed, and he looked doubtfully from the gentleman to the little girl. What did it mean?

But as neither appeared to notice his confusion, it gradually subsided, and he soon found himself enjoying the novel situation. He had not realized he was so hungry, and the chicken and sandwiches were good. It had been a long time since he had tasted chicken or anything like the contents of this wonderful basket.

"Are you traveling far?" the gentleman asked at length.

"I dunno," then, more confidently, "maw she died las' week, an' Aun' Betty she 'lowed I warn't no good nohow, an' I'd better go befo' I done eat her outen house an' home. I left ter once. I 'low hit ain't ther Bender way ter live on nobody," lifting his head proudly.

"So your name is Bender, I take it?" said the gentleman, passing him another sandwich.

"Max Bender—like my paw an' gran'paw afore me," replied the boy, the sparkle not yet out of his eyes. "Hit war a good fambly befo' de wa', my maw has tole me. But de sheriff an' de tax man war a-hungerin' arter de lan', an' our folks hed ter move inter de mountain. I war borned thar an' never seed de ole place. My maw she 'lowed we war a-goin' back sometime, but hit 'pears now like she war mistak'n."

He had spoken slowly, almost listlessly, but toward the end there was a pathetic break in the tired voice.

While he was speaking the little girl had been edging slowly toward him, and she now placed her hand softly on his arm.

"My mamma is dead, too," she said, in a low voice, "and papa and I are traveling round and trying to—to—not mind it."

The boy looked up with a sudden moisture in his eyes.

"An' you an' him thought the worl' on her?" he asked, slowly.

She nodded, but made no reply.

"We can sympathize with you, my boy," said the gentleman, coming to her rescue. "It is a grief we cannot understand, but the reason will be made plain after awhile. I suppose you are traveling to your people now?" he continued, after a slight pause.

"Thar was only me an' maw," the boy replied, his head once more falling upon his hands. "Aun' Betty war only a law aun'. She war taken wi' shakes an' maw comed all ther way from C'lina ter nuss her."

"And have you no relatives in Carolina?"

"Naw. We w'uked roun' pickin' cotton an' totin' things. I 'lowed I'd fin' my way ter de old Bender plantation an' git w'uk."

"But you cannot walk all that distance."

"I lotted on gittin' a job on ther boat ter Eufauly an' walkin' from thar."

Then rising to his feet and picking up his bundle, he added:

"Hit ar time I war a-movin'. Happen ther boat comes along I mus' be on han'. I gin you alls thanks for ther vittles, an' 'lows you'll 'member me kin'ly."

Then with an odd little bow he was about to turn away when the gentleman slipped something into his hand. For a moment he looked puzzled. Then as the meaning of the act dawned upon him he threw the note away as though it burned his fingers.

"I war a 'lowin'," he said, in slow, scornful tones, "thet ther vittles an' ther talk war jes' a kin'ness atween travelers. Hit didn't come ter me thet I was a beggar. Ther Benders never t'uk ter beggin', an' I 'low hit ain't fur me ter be ther fust."

"I beg your pardon," said the gentleman, impulsively extending his hand. "It was a mistake. I——"

But at this moment the boy dropped his bundle and made a quick spring toward where the little girl was standing, near a heap of stones. At the same moment an ominous rattle was heard.

Before the gentleman rightly understood what was the matter, the boy's energetic stamping had ceased and he was once more moving toward the bundle. Then the full meaning of the scene burst upon him. Scarce a yard from where the little girl was standing a hideous reptile lay crushed and helpless.

"Thank God!" he exclaimed, huskily, as he caught her up in his arms. "Thank God—and you, my brave lad."

"Hit war nothin'," returned the boy, coolly. "I hev stomped heaps on 'em in C'lina. You jes' hatter be quick, thet's all. Though I 'low," he added, after a moment's reflection, "but would a been bad fer ther little gal if I hadn't a stomped 'im."

"You saved her life," returned the gentleman, "and have placed me under an obligation I can never hope to repay. But you must let me do what I can for you."

"I only takes pay fer w'uk," said the boy. "Ther stompin' kin go fer ther dinner."

"Well, then, will you work for me? I have a large number of men at work on my place and give good wages. You would also have time to attend school."

The boy leaned on his stick meditatively.

"I 'low I'd like ter w'uk fer you uns," he said, at length. "As fer ther school, we uns never lotted much on sech. I 'low I'd better stick ter ther w'uk."

"But suppose that is the kind of work I want you to do—study books? Perhaps I may want you to assist my clerks, or to look after the work on the farm. Every man should know something of books and figures."

The boy looked doubtful.

"If you put hit thet a-way," he said, slowly, "I mont try, an' maw she ust ter say I war a powerful han' at tryin' when I set out."

FREAKS OF PLANTS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

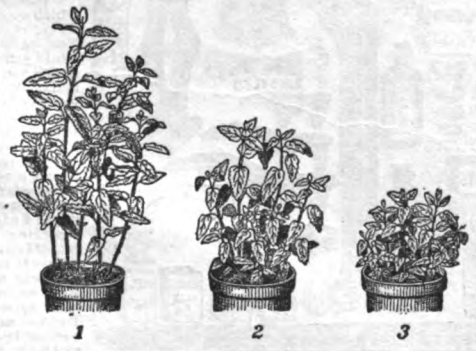


THE production of artificial Arctic plants is one of the most curious of recent scientific experiments, and it is to a Frenchman—Prof. Bonnier, of the Sorboune University at Paris—that credit must be given for the notable discovery achieved in this direction. Everybody knows, of course, that plants which grow in the Arctic, or near the tops of high mountains, have peculiar characteristics; they are stunted and dwarfish, and the few flowers they bear are apt to be unusually large. Until now the reasons for these special features of growth have been a mystery, but the secret back of them is at last revealed.

Prof. Bonnier chose for his experiments plants of various kinds, such as white clover, oats and barley. His method was to take three young plants of the same species, and of exactly the same size, and put them into pots. The first he would grow under ordinary circumstances; the second he grew in a greenhouse which had walls packed with ice, and the third he put out of doors in the daytime and in the arctic greenhouse at night. As a result, it was found that the plant in the cold greenhouse developed only about one-half as rapidly as the one subjected to every-day conditions, while the one kept out in the day and in the iced house between suns attained only about one-quarter the growth.

Now, here was an entirely new discovery; for hitherto it had been supposed that the dwarfing of Arctic or high mountain plants was due to cold, purely and simply. But henceforth it will be realized that the plants of frigid regions, whether the cold is attributable to high latitude or high elevation, owe their stunted character to great daily alternations of temperature. On a mountain-top the sun is quite hot by day, but, of course, when its rays are withdrawn, the chill becomes intense, and this is why the characteristic Alpine plant develops slowly, being subjected in its growth to a series of checks, as one might say. It has no opportunity to produce many flowers, but those which it does put forth are made large, so as to give the best chance for attracting insects to fertilize them.

Arctic and high-mountain plants seem to be about the same in character and structure. Many vegetable species, practically identical, are found in Alaska and on Pike's Peak. When the great glacial ice-sheet, 100,000 years or so ago, was withdrawn from the northern half of the United States, numerous kinds of Arctic plants were left stranded, as it were, upon the loftier mountain-tops, and there they flourish today, doubtless unaware that this is a warmer country than it was in the epoch of their remote progenitors. In like manner, on various European mountain-tops, certain species of animals distinctively Arctic in character remain at the present time. Some Arctic plants, by the way, have actually a fashion of coming up through the snow and putting forth their flowers under such extraordinary conditions.



1 2 3

FIG. 1, SHOWS NORMAL CONDITIONS.
FIG. 2, CONSTANT LOW TEMPERATURE.
FIG. 3, DAILY VARIATION.

It is in France also that some very interesting experiments have been made recently with what are called "tree violets"— that is to say, violet plants transformed into the shape of little trees. The very notion seems an absurdity, inasmuch as violets are so essentially vine-like and earth-clinging; but from this habit they are weaned by the simple process of taking their runners and training them up on vertical sticks. Violets reproduce themselves in much the same fashion as strawberries, by sending out runners along the ground, and it is found that, by conducting these runners upward on sticks, the resulting plants are forced to take on a curious tree-like appearance. They bear flowers, too, under such conditions but only small ones, and the efforts of the French cultivators in the line are directed at present to enlarging the blossoms of these "violettes en arbre," as they call them.

Recently there have been exhibited in this country a number of dwarf trees, representing full grown oaks, elms, and a variety of other species, reduced to pigmy stature by artifice. Thus one may have a noble, sky-searching pine a foot and a half high, though full-grown—converted into this diminutive shape by a process of systematic starvation. Started from a seed enclosed in a gourd, furnished with a minimum of poor soil, and crowded through all its life in every imaginable way, the tree, which under favoring circumstances would have become a forest monarch, is reduced to the condition of a mere copy in miniature of its normal self.

Some really wonderful things are done with cacti, in the way of creating plant freaks. It would seem somehow as if cacti were the reptiles of the vegetable kingdom, inasmuch as theirs is only a sluggish sort of half-life. There is no difficulty in making them submit to any sort of botanical "monkeying," and, by applying the grafting process, almost any species can be induced to grow upon another. In this manner all sorts of grotesque effects are produced, counterfeiting in a rude way the aspect of various animals, etc. To kill a cactus is almost out of the question, and so there is a large license in such work.

Recently it has been ascertained that tomatoes will grow very well on potato plants, and this is an experiment which any person may try for himself. The process is simply one of grafting, and, as a result, a plant may be observed in the act of bearing potatoes below ground and tomatoes above ground.





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The Life of A Girl of Fashion.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IT is these newly rich, who are counted the ruling class, and are often supposed by the casual observer to truly represent New York fashionable life. It is certain too, that to a great extent they do, and that the glitter of their gold dazzles the eyes so thoroughly that they are seldom estimated at their real value.

The children of this class have the advantage of education, but they hold to the parental conviction that money is the chief good of life. Let us see how the day of the fashionable girl, the daughter of such a home, goes by. She has had her winter in Paris, is brilliantly handsome, and has carefully studied every method of gratifying her tastes and developing new facilities for spending money. She has found out that to be in her "set" involves the adoption of many habits which she privately regards as a bore, but which must be followed; and she follows them with a patience and energy worthy a better cause.

First of these is a cup of morning tea, brought by the trim maid before she is out of bed. She has wakened to a deliciously drowsy consciousness of her dainty bedroom, in pale rose and gold, with soft, white, fur rugs and piles of cushions here and there. Her bed is hung with silk and lace, and at the windows are curtains also of finest lace over pale pink satin. Maud, for we must give her a name, looks at her little lapis lazuli clock, and then toward the portiere of plush and satin, which is pushed back to admit Justine, the maid, in the proper uniform of black dress, broad white collar and cuffs, and white cap. She bears a tray holding a cup of egg-shell china; a tiny teapot puffing with its own exertions; a cream jug also of the tiniest, and a Sevres plate with the merest morsel of thin dry toast. Tea at this hour in the morning is most unpleasant, but my lady Maud would not admit this even to herself, since all her "set" drink it, and Justine, late maid to the Countess of Quelquepart, and later to the Honorable Edith Beauchamp, would consider her quite unfit to serve if she departed from any custom of the fashionable world.

Maud drinks the tea, and makes a wry face behind Justine's back, then throws her pretty arms above her head and waits for further action. The sleeves of the pale blue silk nightrobe edged with falls of real lace, slip back and show the delicate veins and wrists. Maud is one of the type that buys the wonderful silk garments in wash-silk which adorn the shop windows, to the admiration of the uncultivated and the derision of the lady who knows that only linen and cambric have any rightful place in a woman's wardrobe, and who frowns upon everything that is not capable of coming fresher and whiter from the laundry, a thing that silk can never do. But Maud revels in these costly tokens of wealth, and has an assortment of shades in palest blue and pink.

Justine has lifted another portiere and disclosed a bathroom with porcelain-lined tub, and when she has turned on the water and piled her mistress's pretty brown hair on top of her head, she takes from a chiffoniere a loose bag filled with bran, shaved soap, and a little orris powder. This is the bath-bag, and Maud is rubbed with this substitute for soap, sponge, and unguent. Another rub with cocoanut oil follows, the grooming being as thorough as that given to a favorite racehorse, and when the delicate tinted silken underwear has been put on, a white China silk dressing-gown is thrown over all and she sits down before her toilet table. A dozen letters have come up with the tea and toast, which Maud opens as Justine brushes out her long locks. They are dinner invitations, one for a horseback ride, two for the opera, several teas, and one from a school-mate. In the meantime the electric bell has been touched for the breakfast. Thus far nothing has been said, but now, as Justine brushes, she waxes voluble as she tells what the maids of Maud's three most intimate friends have said about their young ladies.

Breakfast is there as the last pin is set in the pretty hair. There are hothouse grapes, chocolate, a bird on its square of toast, and all served in silver and porcelain of the finest. Maud is not hungry, for the supper last evening was something beyond any of the season, but she trifles with it all, and as she pushes away the plate the manicure is announced. In days of old it was the peripatetic hair dresser who gave our great grandmothers all the gossip of the town. Today the manicure fills his place, and, as she pares and polishes, Maud listens to the assurance that none of her choicest friends have nails that compare with hers in their power of assimilating polish. Maud listens well pleased, and believes it all, unknowing that precisely the same assurance has been given each one in turn.

At last the hands are in order, perfumed and polished to the last possibility, and Justine laces the satin corset, throws over her mistress' head the pale green silk skirt, and brings the green plush morning gown, with its silver cord and tassels and narrow bands of fur, and Maud descends to her mother's room to discuss the various invitations. Her father has gone two hours ago, as is the way of fathers on Wall Street, and she talks over the ball last night and the prospective one for next week till the hour strikes at which she must dress for an "informal luncheon" at the house of one of her friends on Fifth Avenue. Justine has in the meantime laid out her walking-dress, a tailor-made London gown, with the appropriate gloves and hat. Now she brings the cup of beef tea which Maud must drink to support her through the ordeal of putting on her gown and then my lady trips down the broad stairway, and out to lunch with her friend.

The luncheon is eaten,—a meal as elaborate as a party supper thirty years ago. The little party have chatted like magpies, till the stately butler announces the waiting brougham, and Maud hurries away, sinking back on the soft cushions of her own carriage drawn by a pair of handsome bays, a Christmas gift from papa.

It is the dressmaker's turn to be visited—the dressmaker who makes her "plain little frocks" as Maud calls them, for all her ball and visiting costumes come from the other side. This over, and one or two visits made, the horses heads are turned toward home, and Maud, as she walks slowly up the stairs, pauses for a moment at her mother's room and remembers that she has not seen her father for two days. She must see him tonight, for she wants money for the dressmaker, and she has already shaped the form of her request for so much beyond her allowance. On a table in her room are two jars of violets, and a heavy cluster of roses, gifts from three young gentlemen. The names on the cards attached are satisfactory, and she smiles with only a glance for the flowers themselves, which have cost enough to provide food and shelter for a month to any working woman in New York.

Justine is in waiting and comes forward now to remove wraps. There are two hours before dinner for rest and sleep, and Maud murmurs, "I am tired to death, Justine. I have done a good day's work."

Serene in this consciousness, she receives the loose gown which Justine throws about her, and lies down in the softly shaded room. At six o'clock she is wakened and rises drowsily from the great lounge to go through the toilet for the evening. On the little pink bed lies the exquisite costume of silver and white, in which she proposes to utterly rout and demolish the three young candidates for her interest who are to dine here with other guests. Justine draws on the silk stockings with threads of silver running through them; the silver embroidered slippers, the white silk petticoat with its many lace-edged flounces, and last a wonderful confection of tulle. Then comes the bodice of cloth of silver; the gloves nearly a yard in length; the fan of white ostrich tips and as the solemn butler announces in measured tones, "Dinner is served," she glides into the drawing room, with a little kiss for the father, unseen for forty-eight hours, who looks at her in profound admiration.

It is an imposing dinner, like all the dinners in this house, which is under the rule of one of the sternest of butlers, familiar with all the late methods of being thoroughly uncomfortable. As it goes on, Justine is laying out the opera cloak, also in white and silver, and the Russian shoes to draw on over her slippers. Maud rushes up at last, and stands now as the shoes are fastened by Justine and the wrap clasped with its silver clasps. The carriage waits. She is whirled away by her escort to the opera, and, when that ends, to a little dance and supper at another Fifth Avenue home.

It is two o'clock when Maud again enters her pretty room, still flushed from dancing and the excitement of all the sweet things to which she has listened. Justine is ready for her, heavy-eyed and tired; the costume slips off, and another bath and rub leave her ready for the night's sleep. Ten minutes of hair-brushing, another cup of the beef tea which is the society girl's tipple, and Maud lies down to wake to the same round, varied only by an occasional drive in the Park, a horse-back ride, a reading, or a matinee.

This is one type of society girl and a fair representation of those whose chief interest is money and what it will do. She reads a little now and then, but there is no time till summer and not much then, since each season has its round of obligations. Her life is quite outside the other set of fashionable girls who have a different cult every season, follow English customs assiduously, go "slumming," are interested in charities, Browning Clubs, and a round of more or less useful occupations. These more sensible girls go in for athletics, perhaps, discuss a thousand questions and may even have taken time for college. Out of their lives will eventually come the best fruits of wealth, since each experiment is teaching them its real meanings, and making them better fitted to transmit the inheritance to their children.

The Higher Education of Dressmakers.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE CRY of our day is "Let there be light." Everywhere there is a demand for a higher and more complete education. We believe in thoroughness in the last decade of the 19th century. It is now well understood that every trade and every profession must have not only a special training, but a broad and deep training, resting on exact knowledge.

Men and women are taught, not only how to do things, but why they should be done in one way, rather than in another. It is not enough to teach the cook how to prepare various dishes. She must know the reason of various combinations, and not merely their results. She must study chemistry before she can understand how to cook properly.

There are certain trades whose teaching is thoroughly conservative and among the ranks of whose followers it is difficult to introduce any innovations or improvements. Dressmaking is one of these, and twenty years ago it would have seemed a desperate undertaking to attempt to introduce any reform among the excellent, but unthinking women who constitute the majority of the mantua-making guild. Fortunately for the world and especially for the feminine part of it, the control of this trade is passing away from the dressmakers themselves into the hands of a comparatively small body of intelligent and cultivated men and women.

In the great institutions for technical training, which are springing up in our large cities, dressmaking is taught to large classes as a regular branch of manual training. This is true of the Drexel Institute of Philadelphia, of the Pratt Institute of Brooklyn, of the Young Woman's Christian Association in New York and elsewhere. These great benevolent institutions are presided over, not by the interested heads of trades unions, who seek each to protect and advance the supposed welfare of his own branch of industry, but by a disinterested body of trustees from whom we may hope for all manner of intelligent reforms.

To these great colleges of manual training we may look for progress and improvement.

We have already an Institute for Artist Artisans. Let us hope that some day we may have an institute of artist dressmakers. In the meantime, it would be a comparatively easy matter to introduce such changes in the dressmaking department of the institutions already existing, as to afford to those wishing to learn the trade, the opportunities for a higher education. Worth in Paris, Liberty in London, and Mrs. Jenness Miller and others in this country are already pioneers in the field of artistic dressmaking, and the immense patronage commanded by these foreign artists proves that here, as elsewhere, trained intelligence and cultivated taste, are more of a pecuniary reward.

Let us ask a moment what the dressmakers' profession is or should be. Is it not to provide a shelter that shall be at once comfortable, con-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21.)



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Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools,** as shown in the above cut, viz: **1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering** all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately **would cost between $7.00 and $9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are **full sized, practical, neat** and **cheap.** It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for $3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only $1.62** which includes a 6 months trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 7 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Where Our Food Plants First Grew.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE ORIGIN of some of the common vegetables and cultivated plants seems to be shrouded in mystery, though many efforts have been made to find out where they came from originally; but the great majority of them have been successfully traced to their earliest homes, where at the present day they are apt to be found growing wild.

For example, the potato is said to have originated in Chili or Peru, and in that part of the world it was cultivated long before the discovery of America by Columbus. Maize, or Indian corn, had its first beginnings on the highlands of Central America, and at the time of Columbus' landing was distributed as a food plant and raised as a regular crop over most of the United States. The famous French scientist De Candolle, who has made a special study of the subject, believes that the preservation of maize was due probably to some lucky accident. It is not at all like any other existing vegetable species, and is provided with no adequate means for dispersing its seeds, the latter being enclosed in a wrapper and hard to detach from the ear. Very likely it was on the point of becoming extinct, when a wandering tribe of savages, perceiving its value, saved it from destruction by cultivating it.

The third great vegetable gift of the New World to the Old was tobacco, the cultivation of which on this continent was already quite ancient when Columbus came over. At that period smoking was universal all over North America, while the inhabitants of South America chewed the weed and took it in the form of snuff. Pipes in great numbers have been found in the tombs of the Aztecs in Mexico and in the mounds of the mound builders of the United States. There does not seem to be very much doubt of the fact that the "herb nicotians" originated in Ecuador, or thereabouts.

One of the most ancient of cultivated plants is the radish, which seems to have been raised in gardens from the earliest historic times, having been derived originally from western Asia. The historian Herodotus speaks of a kind of radish that was eaten by the builders of the pyramid of Cheops. The turnip originally belonged in central Europe. An American plant, it is believed, is the sweet potato, and the Jerusalem artichoke is supposed to be a native of this continent likewise, having had its start in Indiana.

The onion is a vegetable of great antiquity, being among the earliest of cultivated species. A kind of onion grown in Egypt 2000 years and more ago was considered so excellent that it received divine honors, being worshipped as a god. This was considered a great joke by the Romans of those days, who, as well as the Greeks were acquainted with several varieties of onions. It is likely that the plant first grew in Persia or Afghanistan. Garlic has been raised in China for thousands of years, and the ancient Egyptians made great use of it. No picture of it has ever been found on the monuments, but this may be because the plant was considered unclean by the priests.

The common cabbage is a native of Europe, and grew originally among the rocks by the sea shore. To this day it is found growing wild in such localities in Denmark, on the south coast of England, and on the north coast of the Mediterranean. In all probability it was cultivated very anciently, and previously to that time was gathered in the wild state. The garden-cress, so popular as a salad, was valued in early times for properties of its seeds. Apparently, it was a native of Persia, whence it spread into Europe, where doubtless it originated.

The lettuce of our gardens is a modification of a wild species which may have had its first start in Southern Europe or Northern Africa. This wild plant is now found growing in those parts of the world. Lettuce was cultivated by the ancient Greeks and Romans, especially for a salad.

Spinach was unknown to the Greeks and Romans, and was new to Europe as late as the sixteenth century. De Candolle believes that the cultivation of it began in Persia about 2500 years ago. The famous traveller brought back to Europe some seeds of it, which he found in the empire of the ancient Medes and Persians. So far as is known, spinach does not now exist in a wild state.

Tea must have originated in China, and today the plant is wild in the mountainous region which separates the plains of India from those of the Middle Kingdom. Its use in the latter country is extremely ancient, but probably more recent in Japan, where an interesting legend is related to account for its origin. This story is to the effect that a priest who came from India into China, in the year 519 A. D. having succumbed to sleep when he had wished to watch and pray, in a moment of anger cut off his two eyelids, which were changed into a shrub. The shrub was the first tea tree, whose leaves banish sleep.

Flax is one of the very old cultivated plants. The ancient Egyptians and Hebrews made use of linen stuffs; indeed, the plant itself may be seen figured in old Egyptian drawings, and the microscope proves that the bandages in which the mummies are swathed are of linen. The lake-dwellers of eastern Switzerland, at a time when they used only stone implements, cultivated and wove a kind of flax. In a tomb of ancient Chaldea, prior to the existence of Babylon, flax has been discovered, and its employment in that region is lost in the remotest antiquity. The sort of flax in use today was introduced into Europe by the Finns. It seems to have originated between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, where it is still found wild.

Cinnamon is the bark of a little tree belonging to the laurel tribe, which grows profusely in the forests of Ceylon, where it doubtless originated. Sugarcane is cultivated at the present day in all the warm regions of the globe, but it was first grown in southern Asia, whence it spread into Africa, and later into America. The clove came originally from the Moluccas. The hop plant seems to be a native of Europe and western Asia, and at the present time it grows wild in Europe from England to the Mediterranean.

Oranges, of which there are many varieties in China are counted by the Chinese among their wild fruits. Most of them are doubtless natives of China, where they have been cultivated from very early times. The lemon came from India. Concerning the grape-vine, there is every evidence of its great antiquity in Europe and in Asia also. Grape seeds have been found in pre-historic lake dwellings in Europe, and records of the cultivation of the grape and of the making of wine in Egypt go back five or six thousand years. The plant must have originated in western Asia or in the neighborhood of the Mediterranean. Today it grows wild in southern Europe and western Asia, and to the south of the Caucasus it flourishes with the luxuriance of a tropical creeper.

Our common strawberry is one of the most widely diffused of plants, partly owing to the small size of its seeds, which birds swallow and thus carry to great distances. Its origin is uncertain on this account. The Greeks and Romans did not cultivate the strawberry, and it was not introduced into gardens until the fifteenth century or later.

Apricots were originally native to China, where they grow wild, and they were not brought to Europe until about the beginning of the Christian era. Almonds came from somewhere about the Mediterranean probably. The peach has been attributed to Persia, but De Candolle to whom the writer is indebted for most of his information, is disposed to think it really came from China. The pear grows wild over the whole of temperate Europe and western Asia, to which regions it seems to be native. Apples are thought to have originated in central Europe; they were cultivated from pre-historic times. The quince grows wild in the woods in northern Persia, near the Caspian Sea, and the pomegranate is likewise a native of Persia.

The watermelon came from tropical Africa, where it is now found wild in great fields. Cucumbers are from India, where they have been cultivated for at least 3000 years. The ancient Greeks were familiar with them. Olives are derived from Syria, and figs from the region of the Mediterranean, while bananas are not American, as so commonly stated, but from southern Asia. The pineapple is an American plant long ago introduced by Europeans into Asia and Africa.

Another valuable plant of American origin is the cocoa, from which chocolate is derived. It was cultivated in Central America and Yucatan at the time of the discovery of America, the seeds being actually used as money, so highly were they valued. The Spaniards carried the cocoa from Mexico to the Philippine Islands in 1674.

The common garden pea is supposed to have originated in Europe or in the west of Asia, but it is not found wild anywhere. The kidney bean is an American plant, and its seeds have been discovered in very ancient Peruvian tombs. The ground nut or peanut is a native of Africa. Buckwheat comes from central Siberia. Wheat is from the region of the Euphrates, and its cultivation is prehistoric in the Old World. The most ancient Egyptian monuments show pictures of it, and the earliest lake dwellers, who were at least as old as the Trojan war, grew the plant. The Chinese are known to have cultivated it as far back as 2700 B. C.

Oats and rye belong in eastern Europe; rice comes from India; the nutmeg is from the Moluccas; the castor-oil plant is from Abyssinia; black pepper is from India, and the cocoanut originated probably in Polynesia or in the Malay archipelago. The pumpkin and squash are North American.

The Higher Education of Dressmakers.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20.)

venient and beautiful for the human body? And in order to do this, is it not necessary to know something about that body and what its requirements, and its true proportions are?

The dressmaker of the future—and let us hope of the near future, will study anatomy as every artist studies it and she will not neglect physiology and hygiene.

The human body is the most wonderful creation of the Almighty. Is it not time for us to understand that we cannot improve upon this shape, this human form divine? The dressmaker of the old dispensation makes the woman fit the dress instead of making the dress fit the woman.

This was the old order of things in the world of education. The old method was to mould the child's mind; now we understand that this must not be done. They know that the young mind has its own laws of growth. They seek to minister to these but not to compress or control the action of Nature.

And the dressmaker of the Higher Education will not endeavor, as her predecessor has done, to create a new woman, whose marvelous and surprising shape is a caricature of Nature and Art alike. She will cherish the less ambitious design of ministering to the comfort and enhancing the beauty of woman as the Lord made her. She will study at least the elements of art. She will acquaint herself with the laws of beauty, of color and of contrast and will make a special study of the line of beauty under various aspects. A knowledge of art will give her a sense of propriety and fitness and will enable her to create garments that will be beautiful in themselves. While she will not ignore the prevailing fashion she will modify its excesses and will adopt the style of dress to the requirements of each individual customer, be the latter blonde or brunette, tall or short, stout or thin.

The objection may be urged against the higher education of dressmakers that it would increase the price of women's clothes. The answer to this objection is that the introduction of machinery constantly tends to cheapen all products, and also that under this new system we shall need fewer dresses and fewer alterations, and can therefore afford to pay more for our clothes in the first instance.

Wise women do not often allow a Worth dress or an exquisite French bonnet to be altered. They prefer to wear a gown or hat that is a little out of style but which bears the stamp of artistic beauty, rather than a garment remodelled by an inferior dressmaker. Now if all our clothes were made by "Artists in Dress" we should not think it necessary, or even desirable to have them altered constantly.

We should thus avoid the terrible half-yearly scramble to have our clothes adapted to the last fashion, for "a thing of beauty is a joy forever."

Air has been liquified and many interesting experiments performed with it. It forms a bluish liquid.



TWO COSTLY PRESENTS; YOU GET BOTH.

WE TRUST AGENTS with 12 new style, Stone Set, Enamel Scarf and Stick Pins, different patterns. Everybody wears them. Sell to your friends for 10 cents each, and we give you **Free** a Fine Gold or Silver laid Bracelet (with lock and key), also this magnificent **Solid Gold** laid Band Ring, handsomely engraved, a perfect beauty, wears a lifetime. Send name; no money required until pins are sold; we take all not sold. Address **PEARL PIN CO., Providence, R. I.**



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Latest novelty! Exceedingly funny! Looks harmless, but when your friend touches it, see him jump. Postpaid, 6 cts. **CALCULATING LEAD PENCIL!** Going like hot cakes! Postpaid, 15 cts. Two silver dimes for both. We are reliable, refer you to several banks. **KEITH DEC. CO., Dept. B, Topeka, Kans.**

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OPIUM and Liquor Habit cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Write DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO., Dept. C1, Lebanon, Ohio.

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HIGH GRADE, SARVEN'S PATENT, tired and banded, height 3 ft. 4 in., 3 ft. 8 in. or 4 ft. Spokes 1 1-16 or 1 1-8 in. For any other sizes send for catalogue. Cut this ad. out and send to us with ONE DOLLAR, state size wheel wanted and we will send them by freight C. O. D. EXAMINE THEM at your freight depot and then pay freight agent balance, $5.90 and freight charges. SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.), CHICAGO, ILL.



Solid Gold or Silver

plated bracelet sent free to anyone for selling 5 sets of our LADIES GOLD plated Dress Pins for 25c. a set; (each pin set with an exquisite jewel.) Simply send your name & address & we will send you the pins postpaid. When sold, send us the money & we will send you the Bracelet. The chain is beautifully engraved and the lock opens with a dainty little key. We trust you and will take back all pins you cannot sell. Write to-day. Address The Maxwell Co., Box P 535, St. Louis, Mo.

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Grows hair on bald heads, or fine moustache or beard in 3 weeks or money refunded. Freshens old hair and thickens the eyebrows. Beautiful dressing. By mail, 25 cents, 3 for 50 cents. AVOID IMITATIONS. FREMONT MFG. CO., Station A, Boston, Mass.

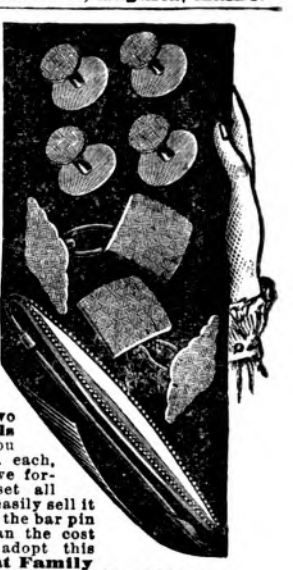
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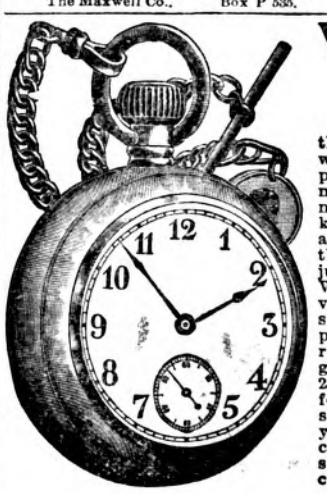


but we have at last got a good sure glass cutter and while it is not a diamond it works to perfection. It will pay for itself in half an hour's time. How many times one wants to cut down glass to use in windows or picture framing etc. This cutter both cuts and separates very nicely. We will send one free postpaid for every 12c. four-months' subscription. Address, SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

Shirt Waist and Dress Pin Set FREE.



This beautiful embossed basket work silver finish set will be sent free to anyone who will sell two boxes of our **Active Liver Pills** at 25c. each. We give this valuable and beautiful set to reward you for speaking a good word for our medicine which acts quick and cures Constipation, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Rheumatism, Nervous disorders, etc., etc. We send the two boxes of **Liver Pills** free all charges paid, you simply sell them at 25c. each, send the 50c. to us and we forward the complete set all charges paid. You can easily sell it for 67c. if you so desire, the bar pin alone is worth more than the cost of the Pills—but we adopt this method to get our **Great Family Remedy** before the people quickly. Address THE G. O. PILL CO., Augusta, Maine.

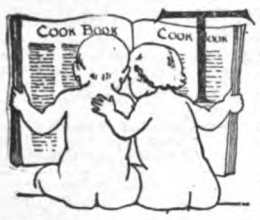


WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us $1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us $1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE making of sandwiches has developed into a fine art, with the caterer, for at all five o'clock teas you will find them in all sorts of varieties and all sorts of shapes, and now comes a sandwich with a handle. This is a great boon to ladies who do not care to remove their gloves. The bread is cut in three-cornered slices and one corner is lengthened out so as to form a handle. After the sandwich is filled and put together, a strip of fringed florist's paper is neatly wound around this long end, and in this way the sandwich may be handled and eaten without in the least soiling the gloves or fingers.

Always use bread that is a day old, and that has been kept in a dry place, for sandwiches. A nice salad sandwich is made of brown bread onto which has been spread very thinly a dressing of pepper, salt, hard boiled egg yolks and lemon juice, with a little shredded water cress. Striped sandwiches are made by laying very thin slices of graham or brown bread alternately between thin slices of white bread, and spreading every other slice with cream cheese.

The best of meat sandwiches are no longer made with slices of the meat, but the meat is finely chopped and spread, with a nice dressing, over the slices; this makes them much easier to eat.

Gingerbread sandwiches are a novelty, and are made of thin slices of gingerbread spread with shreddings of the dark meat of fowl, with a little spice sprinkled over all. Another variety of sweet sandwich is one in which the filling is of chopped sweetmeats. These sweet sandwiches are crowding out the sweet cakes, formerly in evidence at afternoon teas.

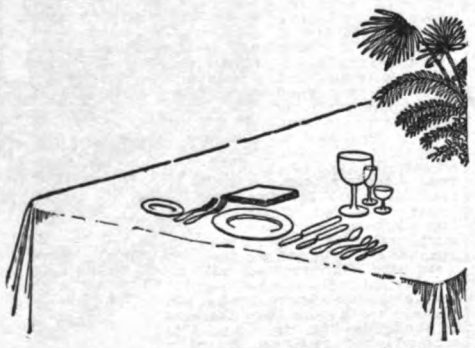
A "Cover" is the name given to the paraphernalia which is necessary for each person for a full course dinner. Of course the number of utensils and glasses is determined by the number of courses to be served,—but the ordinary meaning of a "cover" is a plate—upon which is put the soup dish when served, and which is removed at the end of the soup course—forks at the left of the plate, together with a small bread and butter plate. At the right are arranged the knives of various sizes, soup spoon, teaspoon and butter spread, in the order named. The glasses are arranged in front, and a little to the right, and depend upon the number and kinds of wine to be served; of course the water glass is here. The napkin is placed near the plate. If the dinner is to be a long one, it is better to renew the silver when needed, rather than to lay the table with too many pieces at first.

A few hints may be of use just at this time, when all kinds of renovating, cleaning and general upheaving is on the tapis.

When putting down stair carpeting, put something under the edge, at least—that is, under the part of the carpet which comes across the edge of the stair. If you cannot afford the patent felt pads sold for this purpose, make some of old blankets or strips of old woolen gowns. Stair carpets will last twice as long if protected where they go over the edges.

Ink marks may be removed from books, if the stains are not of too long standing, by moistening them with a soft cloth dipped in the following mixture: Add to a teaspoon of chlorinated lime enough water to cover it. Apply to the stain, and make a second application if it is not removed by the first.

To keep flies off gilt frames of pictures, paint the frames with the water in which onions have been boiled. This doesn't injure the gilding and is a sure preventive against flies.



A COVER.

Do not keep groceries such as sugar, tea, etc. in the bags in which they come from the store, but have some wooden boxes with tightly fitting covers into which to put them as soon as they come. A great deal of strength is thus saved, to the articles, and also the contents are thus saved, as, if left in the bags for any length of time the bags get torn and so the contents are often spilled over the pantry shelves and have to be swept up and thrown away. Glass preserving jars are very good for keeping tea, coffee, rice, powdered sugar etc., for they are thus kept air-tight, and then there is the advantage of being able to tell at a glance, just what is in the bottles—while with boxes the covers have to be removed.

Scorched linen may be restored to its proper color by dampening it and laying it on the grass to bleach. This must be repeated several times.

A dish of charcoal standing in a larder will keep the articles sweet and wholesome almost as well as ice. It is a great disinfectant, but must be changed constantly. Fresh meat is preserved a long time by sprinkling it with powdered borax. When it is to be used, rinse in clear water.

Marble statuary may be cleaned with a solution of saleratus and boiling water. Use a quarter of a pound of saleratus to two quarts of water and boil two hours. Leave it on the marble twenty-four hours and then wash off. Stains may be removed from marble by a solution of equal parts of vitriol and lemon juice. Wet the spots and leave them for an hour, and then wipe with a soft cloth. To clean bronze, rub with sweet oil and polish with chamois.

A weak solution of salt and water is one of the best remedies for poor digestion, and for a cold in the head there is nothing better. Snuff up the nose. A handful of rock salt added to the bath acts as an invigorator, and a gargle is a good remedy for sore throat. Salt and water is excellent for the teeth as it is very cleansing and hardens the gums.

In case of burns or scald, apply common whiting and oil, or water if oil is not at hand. Make the ingredients into a paste and lay it over the burned parts, covering up with some old pieces of linen and cotton wadding.

For headache, sponge the head all over, night and morning, with water as hot as can be borne, and rub dry with a coarse towel.

To clean japanned trays, first wipe with a clean cloth wrung out of lukewarm water, to remove all dirt. Then sprinkle dry flour over and polish with a soft cloth.

To prevent the shrinkage of flannel, put new flannel into clean cold water and let it remain for a week, changing the water often. Then wash in warm water using a little soap.

An excellent liniment for bruises is equal parts of laudanum, alcohol and oil of wormwood.

A good recipe for those who are suffering from summer complaint is made as follows: Mix one teaspoonful ground cinnamon with one-fourth teaspoon saleratus and one teaspoon sugar. Pour on boiling water and let it remain until cool and then add one ounce of tincture rhubarb. The dose is one half to a full wineglass.

Another remedy is made from an ounce each of camphor, capsicum, tincture rhubarb, opium and peppermint. It is to be taken in milk and water, twenty drops for an adult and five for a child, the dose repeated every two hours until relieved.



AN instrument for massaging the eye has been invented by a Frenchman, which is said to be particularly valuable in cases of short sight. This instrument causes the hardening of the eye to disappear and gradually restore it to its normal tone. The pressure exercised by the apparatus brings the crystalline nearer to the retina and thus lessens the effect of refraction. Progressive short sight is not only stopped, but the eye is otherwise much improved by the use of the instrument.



THE curious way in which fishes eat is a study. Some have teeth and some have none; some draw in the food by suction; the sturgeon is one of this class. The jelly-fish wraps its body around its prey and absorbs its food. The crab chews up its food with its legs and claws before passing it into the mouth. The skate's mouth sets transversely across its head, the jaws working with a rolling motion like two hands set back to back. The carp masticates its food in its throat, where its teeth are set. The star-fish fastens itself upon its victim, turns its stomach wrong side out and engulfs its dinner.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for **FREE. $2.00** trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 E Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

IT CURES DRINKING

I have found a positive cure for drunkenness. Can be given secretly. Will gladly tell you what it is. **MRS. MAY HAWKINS, L. U. 131, Grand Rapids, Mich.**

DollarsforPennies.

"THE LIGHT THAT WON'T GO OUT."

Every family in America is ready to buy "The light that sells on sight"—the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK.

It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, discounts kerosene, beats gas, and almost equals electricity or sunlight.

It saves 20 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's the light that won't go out. It's the light in the window for thee.



The Light That Sells On Sight.

The ARC-LIGHT is something new. All need it, all buy it, all bless it. To show it means to sell it, and it yields from 100 per cent. to 300 per cent. profit to agents.

The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavit showing that an Arc-Light burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light it gave the first.

A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who bought over 35,000 writes: "The Arc-Light beats all others. It sells our lamps, and turns night into day." Every saloon, hall, church, or home, store, hotel, car company will buy the Arc-Light Wick on sight. We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce this wonderful discovery, and we offer for 60 days the following wholesale terms to agents:

Medium or A wick, 5-8 inch wide—the size for house lamps—by mail, sample 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $2.50, Small or E wicks, for hand lamps, lanterns, etc., 3-8 inch wide, sample, 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $2.50. Large or B wicks, for table, hall, store, or bracket lamps, 1 inch wide, sample, 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $3.50. D wick, 1 1-2 inches wide, for incubators, hall, bracket, or store lamps, sample, 8 cents; 33 cents dozen; $3.50 gross. Argand wicks for parlor lamps, sample, 8 cents; per dozen, 33 cents; per gross, $3.50. On all orders for $10.00 accompanied by the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send cor sample dozen, giving width desired, and see how they go. We can supply you with any style ARC-LIGHT WICK in any quantities, from a single wick to a thousand dozen.

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SPECIAL FREE COUPON OFFER. To all who send six cents and this offer for three months' trial subscription to this paper we will send 2 samples of A B or E wick. Address **COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.**

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Tailor Made Skirt $3.25

Made by Expert Men Tailors from Lewis Bros. **famous all wool gray mixed cassimere,** all choice beautiful designs. Elegantly finished, perfect in fit and style, guaranteed fully equal to others best $7.50 skirts. **Send no Money** but send this adv. and **we'll send free** a large sample of the cloth and **our big special catalog,** or send $1.00 with waist measure and skirt length down front and we'll express the skirt C O D., subject to examination, the balance, $2.25, to be paid only after you find it just as represented and a perfect fit. Order skirt or catalog quick.

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SEND ONE DOLLAR

WRITE PLAINLY LETTERING WANTED, and we will send you by freight, FREIGHT PAID, C. O. D., subject to examination, this handsome Royal Blue Marble Gravestone, guaranteeing safe delivery. Examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, and equal to stones that retail at $20.00 to $30.00, pay the freight agent Our Special Offer Price, $9.98 less the $1.00 sent with order. We prepay the freight to any point east of the Rocky Mountains. THIS HANDSOME GRAVESTONE is made, cut, traced, lettered and polished in very latest style, from finest Royal Blue Close Grain Marble, is non-destructible, and has a rich, highly polished, unfading color. Gravestone is 20 inches high, 16 inches wide at base. Write for prices on other styles and sizes. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.



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Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "I reduced my weight 21 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO. R Box St. Louis, Mo.

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56 PIECES FULL-SIZE, For Families

There is no fake about this; send your address at once. 10,000 persons answering this advertisement can get a Handsomely Decorated Set, **absolutely free,**—we mean it. There is no trick, no juggling with words, nothing but what is honest. Our offer is in black & white, no misrepresentation of any sort; everybody can receive & take advantage of it, & we positively will not go back on it no matter what it costs us. We wish to put our paper on top, & will do anything to get it in the lead quickly. It is one of the best & most interesting Fashion, News & Story Papers in existence. You can prove all we say, the absolute truth and if you send us your full names & address, we will also forward you a trial subscription free. We pay all expense, postage, mailing addressing and boxing & packing of the 56 Piece Sets. Every one can have their choice of Breakfast, Dinner, or Tea Set Free. All Sets carefully boxed & packed at our expense. **FASHION PUBLISHERS, New York City, Dept. 126, P. O. Box 2617.**

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WE ASK NOT ONE CENT of your Money. This Picture Puzzle represents a *Celestial engaged at washing.* About him are pictured faces of *three customers.* Find these faces, mark each, and return to us. To each patron who can interpret this puzzle, we will give a full size *Fountain Pen and Filler.*

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FOR EVERY CORRECT ANSWER

IN making this marvellous offer, we have no desire to pose as benefactors. It is a business transaction to introduce **CANDIED CRUSHED CARNATIONS,** a delicious and fragrant breath perfume, and all who are awarded a Fountain Pen we require to distribute for us among friends **25 Sample Packages.** In order that these may not be received by unappreciative people, we require you to collect **5 cents** for each sample, and as this is to advertise, we send a **PRIZE TICKET FREE** with every package, which entitles each purchaser to a handsome piece of jewellery, which will not cost less than the Breath Perfume. After distributing the 25 Packages and Prize Tickets, you return our **$1.25,** thus fulfilling your agreement. We then give you for this service, **free,** and in addition to the Fountain Pen awarded you in the first place, a **Solid Gold Shell Ring,** beautifully engraved, and all who answer this within three days from when seen first, we send with ring, ALSO **free, a Simulative Diamond, Ruby and Saphire Stick Pin.**

To many this unparalleled offer may seem impracticable. To such we say it is certainly worth investigating. The risk is nothing. **We ask none of your money.** We are liberal enough to offer inducements to stimulate our industries never attempted by any similar firm, and we simply ask you to interpret our Puzzle and **Send your Address.** We award you the **Fountain Pen** and send, postage paid, 25 Sample Packages of Breath Perfume. Distribute them as instructed, and we give you also the **Solid Gold Shell Ring and Pin.** Nothing could be more fair. Persons alive to their own interests should avail themselves of this great offer at once.



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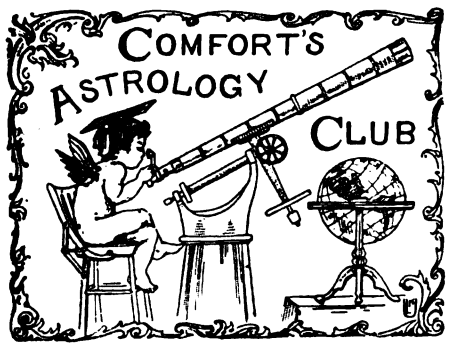
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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



IN THE scheme for the LUNATION or new moon, which occurs at about 18 minutes past five o'clock in the morning of the 8rd of November, this year, the last part of the sign Libra will be ascending and the 1st degree of Leo will be culminating. The moon overtakes the sun just before sunrise, in the Ascendant, where also both the benefics Jupiter and Venus are found; Mercury is conjoined with Mars near the 2d cusp and the other two malefics, Saturn and Herschel, are in the 2d house.

The conjoined luminaries being found in the Ascendant together with the greater and lesser benefics, Jupiter and Venus, is very promising for the public health and the general welfare of the people, though the malefics in the 2d house indicate heavy drafts upon the Nation's treasury and points to controversy and adverse criticism of administration methods by political opponents; unusual excitement in political circles over the currency question or the financiering of the nation with more than usual scolding by fault finders who have political axes to grind; some bad case of embezzlement of public money is indicated for the lunation; and malicious attack upon the authorities over their course in connection with postal matters. It is apprehended that there will be some atrccious crime committed or discovered involving poisoning, and accidental poisoning generally is to be guarded against through the middle days of the month. There will be unusual fluctuations in the money market in the last ten days of the month, which seem to usher in a season of extraordinary excitement involving strife, violence among lawless characters, strikes and disorders among railroad men, mechanics, or telegraph operators and probably some bad storms. More care than usual ought to be given to horses as there is probability of some disease of an epidemic character among them. Diseases among men involving the liver and the lungs are to be particularly guarded against.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER, 1899.

NOVEMBER 1—Wednesday. The month opens with a superior day for nearly all affairs of consequence, but particularly for buying, selling, leasing or improving real estate or for the execution of deeds concerning such matters; also for dealings with masons, contractors and builders, shipwrights, plumbers, farmers, miners and generally those engaged in the dirty and laborious avocations; purchase coal, lumber, lime and agricultural products.

2—Thursday. Another of the bright days for all classes of commercial and mercantile transactions; purchase goods for trade execute writings of consequence for matters pertaining to money and with bankers, persons of wealth, judges, court officers, clergymen, and church trustees; deal in wool and woolen goods, church furnishings, and commercial paper.

3—Friday. Begin this day early and urge all business diligently; REGULUS particularly urges his friends in the intellectual pursuits to press their several vocations to the utmost, and recommends the day equally for the merchant, tradesman, and traveler; let the mind be employed to the fullest extent; let judges weigh testimony and decide important cases and lawyers take initiatory steps and urge proceedings in litigation of magnitude. An exception is urged here in above matters for persons born about the 19th of February, 21st of May, or 23rd of August, of past years, as the time is more likely to develop some troublesome experiences and to be less auspicious for new ventures in their lives. Such persons should beware of controversies and disputes and keep out of the way of harm from fire, explosions, or animals of vicious nature.

4—Saturday. Use the forenoon for principal steps in the elegant avocations; dealing in articles of dress, adornment and decoration; as the noon is passed, however, put a bridle on thy tongue, avoid haste in act and deed and do not engage in quarrels or controversies. Surgical operations, especially upon the female anatomy, better be postponed for a season, where possible, as highly inflammatory conditions prevail; travel not unnecessarily, defer correspondence, look out for fires, and see that no opportunity is given for thieves who will be especially active just at this time.

5—Sunday. A Sabbath likely to be noted for unusual nervous excitement and feverish activity; strange peculiarities, irritability and restlessness will be common; the mind at this period will specially incline towards the curious in science, art and mechanism and ingenious, new and unusual ideas are born and peculiar notions, whims and "*isms*" provoke discord and controversy; the time is generally unfavorable for persons born about the dates indicated in the 3rd paragraph, and is not to be taken by them for making any new beginning.

6—Monday. Strange occurrences baffle thine efforts during the first half of this day, and thou shouldst not make any application for favor or advantage from thy superior or persons engaged in trade in household goods or real estate.

7—Tuesday. Still an unfavorable time, recommending attention to routine matters only and forbidding much success in any new venture; don't place thyself in the way of harm from accidents; look out for fires and vicious animals, exercising more than usual care if compelled to be about machinery or in underground places; there are likely to be some bad accidents from falling walls or debris, by which human lives are endangered.

8—Wednesday. This day introduces a train of much bettered conditions, inviting the active pursuit of business and the vigorous prosecution of all honorable ventures; use the forenoon particularly for thy dealings with banks and the monied world, making collections, buying goods for trade, and otherwise employing all thine energies for the financial welfare.

9—Thursday. Another one of the best days of the month, to be fully improved for all honorable undertakings in life. It is especially favorable for the artistic and decorative callings; for music and paintings; also for milling operations, metal working and the extensive manufacture, purchase or sale of machinery, drugs and chemicals; also patented articles, electrical apparatus, brass and iron work, fire-arms, etc.; do correspondence of consequence; apply for patents, trade marks, and copyrights, and generally urge the literary engagements in the afternoon.

10—Friday. Avoid money speculations in the forenoon of this day; invest not thy capital in merchandise for trade and part with thy means sparingly; the afternoon is more favorable and invites activity in matters pertaining to houses and lands or their improvement.

11—Saturday. The influences of this day are of rather a treacherous character and it will be better to defer matters of much importance until a more propitious day. To the fair the influences for a few days are ominous of mischief and REGULUS warns them against deceit in the social walks of life. The female sex meet strange and unfortunate experiences unless on guard and encounter mischievous conditions for health, especially if born about the 24th of February or May, or the 27th of August or November, of past years. Proprietors of theaters and other places of amusement should beware of making engagements on this day and should be on the alert against injury to their interests.

12—Sunday. The day is peculiarly propitious for religious exercises, though the late afternoon inclines to melancholy and forbids thee to expect much pleasure in associations with aged persons.

13—Monday. Improve this day for all ingenious and mechanical trades and avocations, especially for chemical experiments and processes and electrical ventures, and the day generally for dealings with surgeons, dentists, military men, cutlers, manufacturers, and all who deal in or employ sharp instruments or fire in their avocations. Use the day also for seeking favor from public officers and persons in charge of public works.

14—Tuesday. Arise betimes and push all manner of business to the utmost; prosecute mathematical and scientific studies; deal with printers, booksellers, and all engaged in the literary callings and the ingenious occupations; do important correspondence, travel and make contracts; commercial men are especially favored; choose not the day, however, for courtship or marriage.

15—Wednesday. A day not conducive to progress in any direction though it is by no means unfavorable for any of the general transactions of life.

16—Thursday. Give preference to the forenoon hours for all commercial transactions and literary efforts, also for the prosecution of matters concerned with the fine arts; music, painting and the drama are favored; have care, however, as the afternoon advances that you do not indulge in foolish and unnecessary expenditures; do not buy goods for trade.

17—Friday. Not to be depended upon; have unusual care in loaning thy signature or giving credit in business; the day is best devoted to routine matters only.

18—Saturday. An evil forenoon; form no hasty conclusions in business; litigation and contention are likely to interfere seriously with the happy outcome of affairs of magnitude or importance now begun; be not rash in thought or act and scrutinize carefully all business enterprises now presenting themselves; seek not promotion in public positions nor give offence to thine employer; keep out of quarrels and have no dealings in wearing apparel or any kind of artistic goods; let all special entertainments be temperate and violent experiences guarded against.

19—Sunday. A day inviting patience, forbearance, rest and quiet.

20—Monday. Strange annoyances or hindrances are likely to interfere with satisfactory prosecution of general business, but as the noon is passed let the best efforts of the day be put forth.

21—Tuesday. Begin this day with the dawn for it is one of excellent promise, especially for the merchant and traveler; the forenoon hours being really the best for money dealings, the beginnings of great and noble undertakings, entering upon new business and pushing that already established; have money negotiations and deal with persons of wealth and station.

22—Wednesday. A passive day in which local conditions contribute little impulse; improve vigorously the benevolent indications of thy nativity.

23—Thursday. The inventive faculties are now unusually acute and some remarkable discovery in electrical apparatus or in chemical matters is likely at this time; conditions on this day are favorable for the elegant and artistic engagements; let the artist and musician vigorously urge their pursuits; seek pleasure and amusement from the drama or the social entertainment in the evening.

24—Friday. Bargain for real estate at this time, when also commence affairs of importance for improvement to landed property; deal with farmers, miners, plumbers, nurserymen and cattle raisers; do not seek favor from thy superior in the afternoon.

25—Saturday. Have no dealings with usurers or very old or eccentric persons nor expect much consideration from officers or employees of railways or in government positions.

26—Sunday. A quarrelsome and contentious Sabbath, inviting patience in a remarkable degree; the religious discourse will be aggressive and controversial and marked by haste and false logic. Let all persons born about the 10th of March, June, September, or December, of past years, look carefully to their affairs lest by their recklessness or haste they become involved in litigation and experience misfortune or loss, or in some cases suffer violent hurts or diseases; such persons are now generally excitable, contentious and quarrelsome; they are admonished that patience and discretion will prove profitable allies in the present juncture of their affairs; the fair sex are peculiarly under a ban and we shall read of some unusual excitement over deeds of violence suffered.

27—Monday. Urge business vigorously on this day; deal with government officials and large corporate interests; apply for patents and hasten trade in patented articles.

28—Tuesday. Give preferences to this day for mechanical and inventive efforts and for dealing in metals, chemicals, glassware, hardware, cutlery, and electrical materials and machinery. Manufacturing enterprises are encouraged and surgical operations and chemical experiments succeed.

29—Wednesday. One of the very excellent days of the month, which REGULUS recommends to his friends for the inauguration of their most important ventures in the passing life, especially if they pertain to the elegant occupations or the polite arts; have transactions concerning houses and lands and their improvements in the forenoon hours, when also give thine efforts to the literary affairs; sign contracts, do correspondence, hire help and travel.

30—Thursday. Conditions are decidedly baffling on this day and it is better to defer matters of much importance until a more promising time; beware of visionary schemes for suddenly becoming wealthy; as, if they present themselves at this time, they are likely to be delusive and untrustworthy.

A WOMAN IN KOKOMO

has discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. A box of this wonderful medicine will be mailed free to any sufferer who addresses MRS. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

LADIES A 50c BOX FREE

That every invalid lady may learn how quickly she may be cured of uterine troubles, displacements, painful periods, leucorrhœa, etc. I promise to send by return mail in sealed plain package to any lady who will write for it a 50 cent box of a simple home remedy that cured me after years of suffering. There is no charge whatever. Write to-day for yourself or for your friend.

Address Mrs. L. Hudnut, 48 A, South Bend, Ind.

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Get Married 8,000 Ladies VERY ANXIOUS TO MARRY. Many very beautiful and wealthy. Send 2 cts. for big list of ladies and gents, with full description and residence. Satisfaction guaranteed. UNION CORRESPONDING CLUB, Box 608, AUSTIN, ILLS.



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Instant Relief. Cure in 15 days. Never returns. I will gladly send to any sufferer in a plain sealed envelope FREE a prescription with full directions for a quick, private cure for Lost Manhood, Night Losses, Nervous Debility, Small Weak Parts, Varicocele, etc. G. B. Wright, Music Dealer, Box 1235, Marshall, Mich.

YOUR FORTUNE FREE FIND OUT WHAT THE STARS SAY AT YOUR BIRTH. Be guided by them for your actions. It means your wealth and happiness. Send me your birth date and I will send valuable astrological information with a pen picture of your future affinity. All questions answered on love, business, etc. Don't send a cent. It is my life study and my knowledge is free to you. Noted people of Europe and America have been benefited by my readings. Confidential. Address Mlle. Astro, Station A, Philadelphia, Pa.

I TELL FORTUNES 10 Test Questions answered for 10c. on business or matters of heart, give birth, sex, lock of hair, price hereafter $1.00. ASTROLOGER, Dept. 16, Portland, Me.

My mamma wants to tell You something Is the title of a book that should be read by all expectant mothers: it tells how she can find relief from all the ills incident to motherhood and secure health for both mother and child, sent free by DR. J. H. DYE MEDICAL INSTITUTE, Buffalo, N. Y.

YOUR FUTURE LIFE COMPLETE in LOVE, MARRIAGE and BUSINESS, AS PREDICTED by ASTROLOGY. Send TIME of BIRTH, SEX & 10c. for Written Prediction. PROF. RENFREW, MEDFORD, MASS.

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Night losses, drains and emissions cease at once. Errors of Youth, Premature Decline, Lost Manhood, Varicocele and all Diseases and Weaknesses of Men or Women from whatever cause, permanently and privately cured.

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Full Confidence Restored and Sustained

Our regular $3.00 package Paris Vital Sparks, a full month's treatment, 100 doses, sent by mail, closely sealed. Write us to-day.

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Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say $25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address,

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1. HAS.	
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We will give $200.00 in Cash to anyone who can arrange these eight groups of letters into the names of eight well-known Forest Trees. Each group of letters when properly arranged, spells the name of a common forest tree which is used by carpenters and builders. You can only use each letter in its own group and only as many times as it appears in its own group. Altogether there are eight groups and eight correct names, so if you can arrange the letters into the eight names of the trees, we will give you $200.00 in Cash. If more than one person sends the correct answers the money will be equally divided and will be paid Dec. 15, 1899. Understand, however, that we have one condition, which may take a few hours of your time, and we will write you about it when you send your answer. **How Can We Do This?** We make this liberal offer so that you may become interested in our business. We want you to work for us in your own locality, and propose to make it an object for you to do so. Distance from us does not make any difference. Try and Win, but do not send any money with your answer. It looks like an easy task, yet it is a test of skill. We make this generous offer to every reader of this paper who can solve this puzzle. It is straight business with us. As soon as we get your answer, we will notify you if the names you send are the correct ones, and will also inform you fully of the work which we wish done that will enable you to win. Write at once, giving your full name and address plainly.

COLONIAL TRADING COMPANY, 404 Atlantic Avenue, - BOSTON, MASS.

Greatest One-Half Price Jacket and Cape Sale of the Century.

No Money Required in Advance.

PURCHASED AT ABOUT 50c. ON THE DOLLAR, from one of the largest mills in the country, 150,000 yards of the finest materials that can be produced. The mill was overstocked, and rather than carry the material over, disposed of the entire lot at considerably less than the cost of manufacture.

THINK OF IT—150,000 YARDS of choice materials, all cut into Ladies' Jackets and Capes, which we herein illustrate. Every garment made in our own factory, by expert tailors and with that high degree of excellence for which the Grossman Cloaks are renowned.

THE MILLS' LOSS IS YOUR GAIN as we have marked each garment at a price very little above our actual cost, which means a saving to you of about one-half. A cloak for which you would pay elsewhere $10.00, we will sell you for $5.00.

Goods Sent C.O.D. Without Deposit.

ABSOLUTELY FREE OF COST TO YOU, we will forward any garment you may select. The garment may be tried on and carefully examined at your nearest express office **before you pay one cent.**

BE SURE WHEN ORDERING to give us your full name, post-office address, nearest express office, number of garment desired and your measurements, as per instructions below.

OUR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE No. 70, containing several hundred of the Latest Styles in Ladies' Misses' and Children's Cloaks, Suits, Furs, etc., will be mailed free upon application to all those unable to make a selection from this advertisement.

No. 1501. Handsome Ladies' Plush Cape, made of very high grade silk seal plush, 18 inches long with very full sweep; lined with a good quality black silkaline; handsomely embroidered with fine black mohair braid and beaded with cut jet; deep storm collar edged with black thibet fur.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $2.48. Sizes from 32 to 44 inches bust measure.

When ordering do not forget to give your name, address, number of the garment desired and your measurements.



No. 1501
$2.48

No. 1530. Serviceable Ladies' Plush Cape, of the highest grade silk seal plush, 24 inches long with full sweep; lined with a good quality black serge; deep storm collar and front edged with black thibet fur; cut in four gores.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $3.98.

No. 1531. Same as No. 1530, only 27 inches long, $4.24.

No. 1532. Same as No. 1530, only 30 inches long, $4.48

Tell your friends about this phenomenal sale. We will esteem it a special favor.



Nos. 1530
1531
1532
$3.98
$4.24
$4.48

No. 1545. Magnificent Ladies' Cape, of the finest quality silk seal plush; braided and beaded; deep storm collar and front edged with full black thibet fur; lined with black Italienne; 24 inches long; cut in four gores and extremely well made.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $4.48.

No. 1546. Same as No. 1545, only 27 inches long, $4.98.

No. 1547. Same as No. 1545, only 30 inches long, $5.48.



Nos. 1545
1546
1547
$4.48
$4.98
$5.48

No. 1515. Exquisite Ladies' Plush Cape, of an exceptionally fine silk seal plush, 20 inches long with a very full sweep; magnificently beaded with cut jet and heavily braided with fine black mohair braid; deep storm collar; front and bottom trimmed with full black thibet fur; lined with a very good quality black mercerized Italienne.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $5.48.

You run absolutely no risk in ordering from us, as you need not pay one cent until you have carefully examined and accepted goods at express office.



No. 1515
$5.48

No. 1559. Beautiful Ladies' Plush Cape of the highest grade silk seal plush, 30 inches long and has a very full sweep; elaborately beaded with cut jet and braided with fine black mohair braid; deep storm collar and front edged with black thibet fur; lined with a very fine quality black silk serge.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $7.98.

Our fortunate purchase of materials is your gain. We will sell you for $5.00 a cloak that would cost you, elsewhere, at least $10.00.



No. 1559
$7.98

No. 1540. Magnificent Ladies' Plush Cape of the finest silk seal plush, 20 inches long and has a very full sweep; elaborately beaded and braided and trimmed around collar, down front and around bottom with black thibet fur; lined with a very fine quality black satin rhadame.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $4.98.

You cannot afford to let a chance like this slip by. You save at least 50 per cent. by ordering now.



No. 1540
$4.98

No. 1424. Very Stylish Ladies' Double Cloth Cape of a very fine quality black beaver cloth, is 27 inches long with a very full sweep, handsomely trimmed with black satin ribbon, the collar and upper cape being edged with black thibet fur.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $3.48.

Not until a garment is correct in style, faultless in workmanship and perfect in fit can it bear the Grossman label.

Write to-day for our handsomely illustrated catalogue No. 70. It is free.



No. 1424
$3.48

No. 1421. An Extremely Good Cloth Cape, made of a very fine quality heavy black boucle cloth, 30 inches long with a very full sweep; deep storm collar which, together with the front of the garment, is edged with a good quality of black thibet fur; lined with black silkaline.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $3.74.

Return at our expense any garment ordered of us, which you do not find exactly as represented and a wonderful value.

We retail at wholesale prices, and guarantee satisfaction.



No. 1421
$3.74

No. 1427. Beautiful Ladies' Cloth Cape, of a very excellent quality black kersey cloth, 27 inches long and has a very wide sweep; new style inverted plaited back with kersey straps finished with cloth clasps and numerous small pearl buttons.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $3.98.

Order quickly before the best garments are sold out. Even though you do not need a garment at the present time, it will pay you to hold it until you do.

We guarantee satisfaction. Any garment proving unsatisfactory upon receipt may be returned at our expense.



No. 1427
$3.98

No. 1450. Magnificent Ladies' Cloth Cape, of the finest quality heavy boucle cloth; 30 inches long with a very wide sweep; large storm collar and front edged with brown bear fur; lined throughout with a very good quality black mercerized Italienne.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $5.74.

Tell your friends about this phenomenal sale. We will esteem it a special favor.



No. 1450
$5.74

No. 1430. Extremely Pretty Ladies' Cloth Cape, made of the finest quality black kersey cloth, 27 inches long; very full sweep; elaborately embroidered with black mohair braid and beaded with the finest cut jet; collar is embroidered similarly to cape; new style inverted plaited back with strap trimming down front and around bottom.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $4.48.

Our handsomely illustrated catalogue No. 70 should be in the hands of every lady who lays any claim to style. It is free for the asking.



No. 1430
$4.48

No. 1432. Handsome Ladies' Cloth Cape, made of a very fine quality black boucle cloth (sometimes called astrachan cloth), 30 inches long with a very wide sweep; large storm collar and front edged with black thibet fur; lined throughout with black satin rhadame; new inverted plaited back.

Special price for this sale, $4.98.

When ordering do not forget to give your name, address, number of the garment desired and your measurements.



No. 1432
$4.98

No. 1301. Extremely Stylish Ladies' Cloth Jacket, made of a fine heavy quality black boucle cloth, 22 inches long and tastefully trimmed in front with over-laid kersey straps, eight fancy buttons; plaited back; lined with a very good quality black Italienne,

Special wholesale price for this sale, $3.98.

No. 1302. Same as No. 1301. Of fine black melton cloth. Price, $3.98.

You run absoluteiy no risk in ordering from us, as you need not pay one cent until you have carefully examined and accepted the goods at your express office.



Nos. 1301
1302
$3.98

No. 1303. Very Handsome Ladies' Cloth Jacket, made of high-grade black beaver cloth, in the latest style, 23 inches long; deep storm collar; two pockets; four fancy buttons; coat back; trimmed with over-laid kersey straps.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $3.24.

Our fortunate purchase of material is your gain. We sell you for $5 a cloak that would cost you elsewhere at least $10.

Our garments are all extremely well made by expert tailors, and are sold at prices that defy competition. Order quickly.



No. 1303
$3.24

No. 1304. Very Nobby Ladies' Cloth Jacket, made of a fine quality black curly boucle cloth, 23 inches long; lined throughout with a good quality black serge; deep storm collar; two pockets; coat back.

Special whole sale price for this sale, $3.48.

You can not afford to let a chance like this slip by. You save at least 50 per cent. by ordering now.

Tell your friends about this phenomenal sale. We will esteem it a special favor.



No. 1304
$3.48

No. 1310. Very Swell Ladies' Cloth Jacket, is made of a fine quality black or navy blue kersey cloth, is 22 inches long and is **lined throughout** with a very good quality silk serge; has over-lapped seams; two pockets.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $4.98.

When ordering this garment do not fail to mention whether you desire black or navy blue.

Not until a garment is correct in style, faultless in workmanship and perfect in fit can it bear the Grossman label.



No. 1310
$4.98

No. 1320. A Very Beautiful Ladies' Cloth Jacket, made of highest grade black tight-curl boucle cloth; 23 inches long; trimmed with over-laid kersey straps; lined throughout with black silk serge; has deep storm collar; two pockets; eight fancy combination buttons.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $5.98.

Return at our expense any garment ordered of us, which you do not find exactly as represented, and a wonderful value.

Our fortunate purchase of material is your gain. We will sell you for $5 a cloak that would cost you elsewhere at least $10.



No. 1320
$5.98

No. 1315. This Beautiful Ladies' Double-breasted Cloth Jacket, made of a very fine black or navy blue kersey cloth, 23 inches long, new style notched front; garment is trimmed with silk-stitched kersey straps; lined with colored silk serge; two pockets.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $5.98.

Order quickly, before the best garments are sold out. Even though you do not need a garment at the present time, it will pay you to hold it until you do. Write plainly when ordering. Give your name, address, number of the garment desired and your measurements.



No 1315.
$5.98

No. 1321. Very Stylish Ladies' Double-breasted Cloth Jacket, made of highest grade black or navy blue kersey cloth: 23 inches long; trimmed, as shown, with over-lapped kersey straps; has new notched storm collar; double-stitched seams; coat back; lined throughout with a good quality black satin rhadame

Special wholesale price for this sale, $6.48.

You run absolutely no risk in ordering from us, as you need not pay one cent until you have carefully examined and accepted the goods at your express office.

Tell your friends about this phenomenal sale. We will esteem it a special favor.



No. 1321
$6.48

No. 1323. A Very Nobby Ladies' Double-breasted Cloth Jacket, made of a fine quality black or navy blue kersey cloth; 23 inches long and lined throughout with a very fine quality black satin rhadame; trimmed, as shown, with over-laid kersey straps; new scalloped front and back; two pockets.

Special wholesale price for this sale, $6.98.

When ordering do not forget to give your name, address, number of garment desired, and your measurements.

You can not afford to let a chance like this slip by. You save at least 50 per cent. by ordering now.



No. 1323
$6.98

REMEMBER!

No money required in advance. Give your name, post office address, nearest express office, number of the garment wanted, and measurements, as per instructions opposite.

WE GUARANTEE SATISFACTION!

EDWARD B. GROSSMAN & Co.
170-176 STATE ST.

THE GREAT MAIL-ORDER CLOAK HOUSE
CHICAGO, ILL., U. S. A.

Measurements Necessary when Ordering.

For a Cape, give the number of inches around fullest part of bust and size of collar worn.

For a Jacket, give number of inches around fullest part of bust, size of collar, and *inside* sleeve length.

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